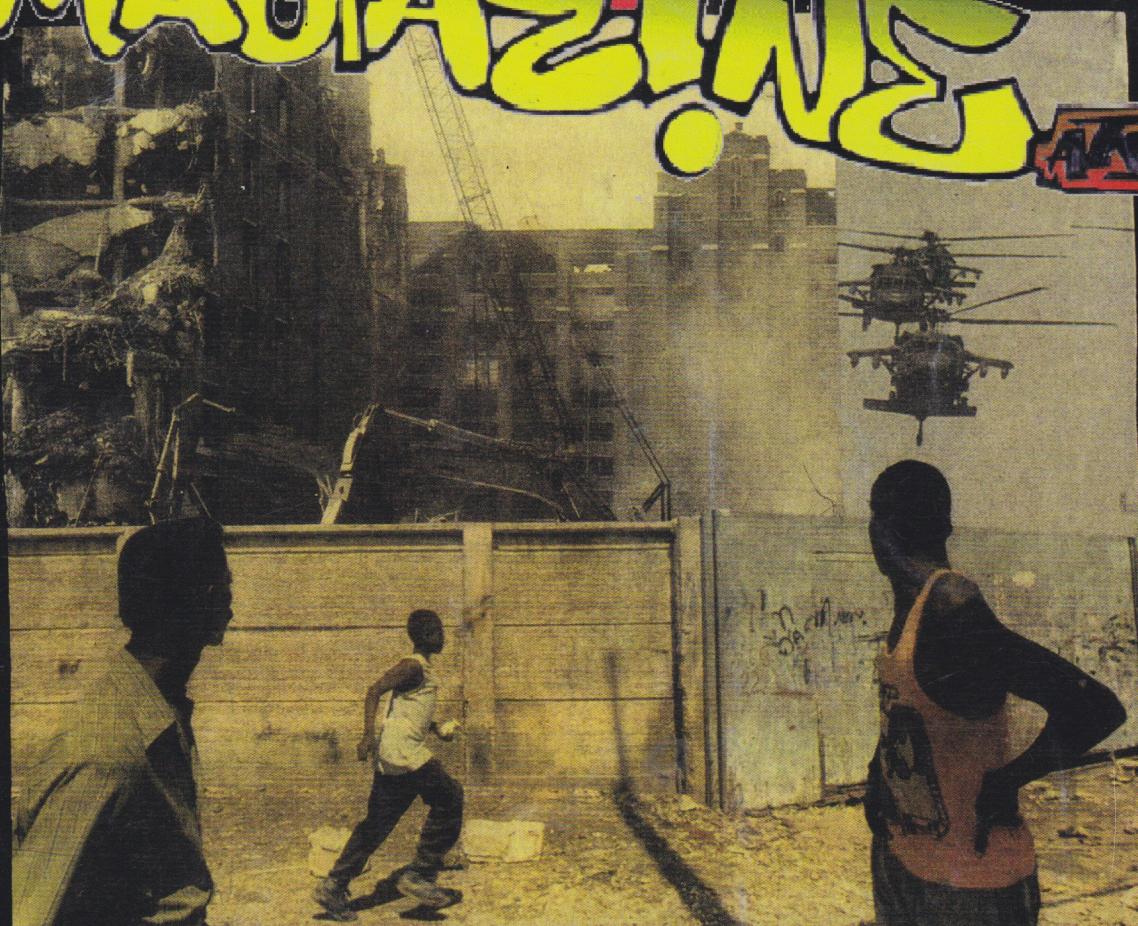


REVOLUTIONARY ARTISTS WORKSHOP VOLUME ONE

# RAW MAGAZINE

SPRING 2001

INCLUDES  
CD



1995 Under Occupation

Theodore A Harris

THE SOURCE, THE NAVY & VIEQUES

SPIKE LEE BAMBOOZLES YOUTH

INTERVIEW W/ MICHAEL FRANTI

PALESTINE: ROCKS VS. TANKS

CD TRACKS INCLUDE: DEAD PREZ, SPEARHEAD, C RAYZ WALZ & MORE...



# AWOL Magazine

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**mission statement:** AWOL is a workshop of artists, activists and revolutionaries. If you're poor, working class, of color, a woman or generally oppressed, you resist this corrupt system every day. We hope to provide a space for marginalized voices to dialogue and be heard, a place to resist and grow through the exposure of the heinous truths of this dehumanizing system.

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# WELCOME TO AWOL

You have just entered the first issue of AWOL magazine, a revolutionary artists' workshop. In a culture saturated with pro-military propaganda, corporate growth monsters snatching up our babies and using them for fodder for their capitalistic wars, AWOL stands as the antithesis to that system.

Through our written word and our spoken, we rap the realness of the war on the poor, colonized and oppressed. Whether it be due to U.S. military occupation of Vieques or the hyper locking up industry, or racial profiling of youth of color, we understand they are all inherently linked to form the chains of our oppression. We in AWOL understand this militarism involves more than bombings by the U.S. of other countries, but also how much in common we have with those "other" communities in the policing and imprisonment of our own third world communities.

There are two parts to AWOL: the zine and the cd. There are also two purposes to AWOL. First, to help disseminate the information against the military machine, as well as the entire corrupt system built on our backs. But it is also a place to showcase the work of revolutionary artists who are staying true to the movement for social change and therefore forfeiting any play by the jiggy mainstream music industry. AWOL isn't going to buy you a beamer or allow you to bling, but we hope to serve as a medium so that they may reach a larger audience, as well as other artists and revolutionaries.

AWOL is rooted in the movement for social transformation, liberation and truth. Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) and Revolution Out of Truth and Struggle (ROOTS)/War Resisters League both anti-war nonviolent organizations, funded the project. The views expressed in here are not those of the organizations that funded it. We know what we are putting forth is controversial; it's supposed to be. These are the raw voices of folks of color, of youth, of the people who are figuratively and literally under the gun. You may not agree with all the things being said, but we respect the right to create a space where everyone can speak and contribute, and if you have a problem, write in and let us know. We hope AWOL starts a dialogue, because if we don't talk with each other and network, we are done before we started. Go AWOL, yall, because we are the thunder before the storm!

-one love, one struggle, the AWOL troops

## SHOUT OUTS AND BIG UPS

Ona Move and much love to: CCCO, WRL, SLAM, ROOTS, TWO, DRUM, STORM, Underground Railroad, SAGE Productions, Colors in Action, BlackSurreal, C RAYZ WALZ, Thirdeyemovement, Pueblo, SOUL School, Brown Collective, all political pris- onas, the MOVE organization, Prison Moratorium Project, BLU Magazine, DJ Drama, Big Island Conspiracy, Zearle, Lost Children of Babylon, Bahamadia, SRP inc., WarClub, Warrior's Blood, Luminous Flux, \$hif, Ricky Jason, DJ Clearcut aka Sean McGee, Carlton Smith, COA, ATS, Snika, Jihad Squad, Guerilla Militia, Emerge, Russell Shoatz III, Walidah, King Now, Dr. Bombay, Bernard "Bird" Jenkins, Dead Prez, People's Army, Alex Doty, Catherine Enny, Brian Cross, Teresa Penepinto, Jose Olivas, Claudia de la Rosa, Confuse-Us, Oracle, asif, AFSC Youth and Militarism, Project Yano, NMOY, NPDUM, CIA, Caje Ills, Poetica, Art Anabo, New Afrikan Griots, Jen C. Armas, Last Emperor, Michael Franti, Shereen Merajji, Maggie Aragon, Jenny DeLorey, Sarah Dirks, Jenessa Paige, Oriana Bolden Queenbeat, Download, Goldilocks, Disciples of Discipline, Vagabond, Yazeed, Mazzi, and all of the artists who have blessed us with time, talent and love. Thank you for droppin' by the Revolutionary Artists' Workshop!

## what is awol?

the dictionary defines awol as  
**"absent without leave..."**  
absent often without notice or permission."

we have decided to redefine the term, to explode the dictionary definition like a hand grenade.

**we go awol against this militaristic society;** we go awol from imperialistic society. we are absent without leave from the business of killing and oppressing.

we've decided to reclaim the term awol. here are some of our new definitions:

**Artists Working On Liberation**

**Another Way of Life**

**Aquire Wisdom Over Lies**

**A World of Love**

**Against the War on Love**

**About Wanting Our Liberation**

**Activists With Out Lines**

**Authors Writing On Life**

**Androids Waging Outerspace Linguistics**

**GO AWOL!**

# IF IT IZ TO BE WAR

If it iz to be war  
Let us prepare fo' war  
Chicken Lil' was ignored  
    But the sky fell anyway  
Tv screen screamz out 5 minutes of hate  
    & millionz yell at Iraq fo' interruptin they  
eveninz "entertainment"  
citizenz call fo' battle  
az stationz take a break to allow they sponsorz to  
speak  
like phillips petroleum  
    who never mentions selling Saddam 500 tonz  
a poison gas  
like weaponz maker westinhouse & nuclear pusher GE  
ownin cbs & nbc leavin  
    abc to dizney a deadly trio lookin to shoot  
you pollute you & cover it  
    all up inna grinnin manufatured virtual reality  
(it'z a small world afta all)  
where liez becum legend legendz becum hiztory  
if it iz war, then let us prepare fo' war  
52 species of birdz extinct just since the first attack  
they nest & rest wit over 500,000 formerly breathin  
bleedin teachin carin feelin  
    hurtin humanz  
    who never even met they enemiez  
az much az 500 million gallonz a oil burnz day inta  
night & night inta nightmare  
artillery turned evenin sky inta flame but now steel  
rain turnz to acid rain & the  
    world may never be the same & tv showz itz a  
video game to help us  
    ignore the pain poisoned blood revealz our  
shame  
    now theze fuckaz gonna try it... again?  
Fuel-air explosivez  
Dropping nuclear sized pressure frontz  
across short distancez  
  
Cluster bombz tomahawkz SLAMz ATMz MLRz  
nuttin but the best  
all guns trained on Hussein (or so they claim)  
scorched earth



Hell if  
it worked  
fo' Sitting Bull  
it'll handle Saddam'z bull, right?  
but I think ya betta check yo' sightz  
cuz despite yo' claim yo' aim seemz poor  
& Saddam'll probably survive the war  
just like the one befo'  
az even mo' collateral damage collectz  
& exxon & chevron cash they checkz  
troopz wade in the blood of thoze they protect  
becuz our nation demandz respect  
so thatz whut it getz, no matta da cost  
thatz alwayz the attitude of a boss  
they don't think they warz can be lost  
...but I do  
so befo' you pledge allegiance & step aside  
thinka the namez & facez that disappear when they  
die  
amerikkan troopz brought home to die  
Gulf War syndrome still denied  
used then abused thatz the role of the modern soldier  
WWIII still hoverz over our shoulder  
hatred can only smoulder fo' so long  
let our anger make us strong!  
Then tell me: to which camp do you belong?  
If it iz to be war  
Let it be war  
& let us  
choose sidez accordingly

by KOT

**So in case you've begun associating "Be all you can be"** with decadent, wanton international terrorism, as most of us have, the army has switched its slogan. The new catch phrase in the Army is "**An Army of One.**" According to the former secretary of the Army, Louis Caldera, the change will help alter the perception of the military "to get the ethic of self-less service, duty, honor and country" instilled. A radical change in what the Army has been saying for the past half century. The advertising agency responsible for this great service to poor/working communities, Leo Burnett (whose clients include McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Nintendo), is currently involved in developing a new series of Military ads directed at people of color. They are working with Cartel Creativo, which specializes in Hispanic advertising, and Images USA, which specializes in marketing to blacks.

# Blood Money

Blood on the pages of The

**Source hip hop magazine?** Yes we're talking about real blood here, real people dying of cancer as a result of contamination and stray bombs, real ecological and environmental damage by bombing practices and real imperialism committed by the United States Navy.



National Day of Solidarity with the Peoples of Vieques March at the White House, Sept. 22, 2000.

You may have guessed it; I speak of the US Navy occupation of Vieques, Puerto Rico and the use of *The Source Magazine* as a Navy recruiting tool in the form of Navy advertising. The US Navy has been involved in serious human rights violations in Vieques, Puerto Rico for almost 60 years!

In 1941, the United States Congress approved giving the US Navy the immediate possession of the Vieques lands, expropriating 26,000 of the 33,000 acres. This was done in the same spirit that Christopher Columbus declared the islands he landed on as his property. Thousands were physically removed from land they had lived on for generations and were forced to leave. In some cases, families only had 24 hours to leave the island.

This is an act that mirrors the United States Army relocation of Native Americans to reservations and the more recent dumping of nuclear wastes onto their lands, destroying the ecosystem and causing much sick-

ness and death within the population. Let's face it, when it comes to the US Armed Forces' treatment of people of color worldwide and here at home, one word comes to mind rather swiftly: GENOCIDE.

Have you ever heard of Depleted Uranium? Depleted Uranium (DU), or uranium-238, is made from uranium hexafluoride which is the non-fissionable by-product of the uranium enrichment process used to obtain uranium-235 for reactor fuel and nuclear bombs. The United States Navy uses Depleted Uranium-tipped bombs and bullets on the island of Vieques in violation of United States law!

After a civilian guard was killed in April, 1999, Navy officials acknowledged that they willfully violated "the requirements of the Navy's radioactive materials by firing

depleted uranium munitions which specify that depleted uranium ammunition is to be used strictly during combat or approved tests and are prohibited from peacetime or training use," according to Luis Reyes, regional director for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in a letter he sent to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Depleted Uranium was also used in the Gulf War, and many physicians articulate that DU may be one of the causes of Gulf War syndrome.

Depleted Uranium just doesn't go away; it releases aerosols that can travel in the wind for more than 15 miles, and when inhaled, it lodges itself in the bloodstream, contaminating the affected person and their DNA, polluting their offspring for generations to come!

Depleted Uranium also destroys the soil and ocean, killing and contaminating plant and marine life in the same way it pollutes humans. Water is now piped in from mainland Puerto Rico due to contamination

continued on page 8

# AQUI LLEGO

Boricua - Pura  
Dedicating this to the US  
Dropping bombs in the name  
of God

Do me a favor and ship a few  
good men  
To drop a bomb on Cape Cod  
While you at it, go drop one  
on Martha's Vineyard

Leave Vieques alone

My Paradise called home has  
transformed  
To a polluted graveyard of  
Uranium bombs  
How many people have to  
die

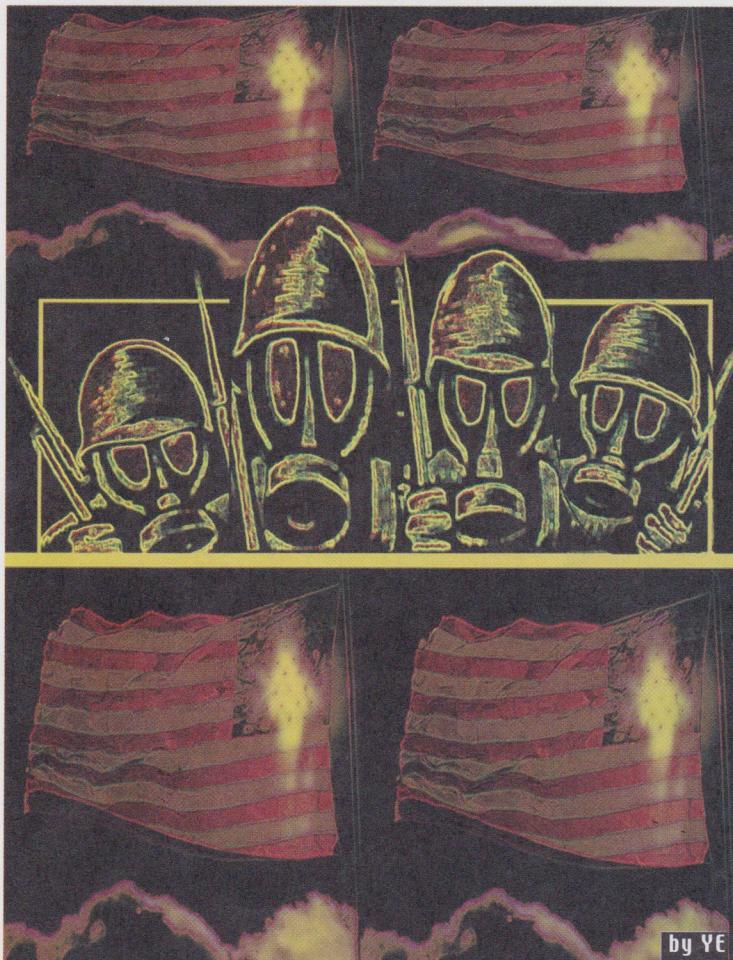
Before you see the harm  
How many people have to lie  
About our state of alarm

If Puerto Rico is a  
Commonwealth,  
Then why are we poor?  
Bombs are being dropped  
But we're not at war  
Colonized, rob us blind  
But want more  
For each Taino killed  
I'm making four

First grade teachers  
Made us pledge allegiance  
Had us believing  
In justice and freedom  
I'm committing treason  
Before you succeed in  
Killing our island, our seeds  
and our seamen

Que viva Puerto Rico Libre!  
You hear me!

-by La Bruja



by YE

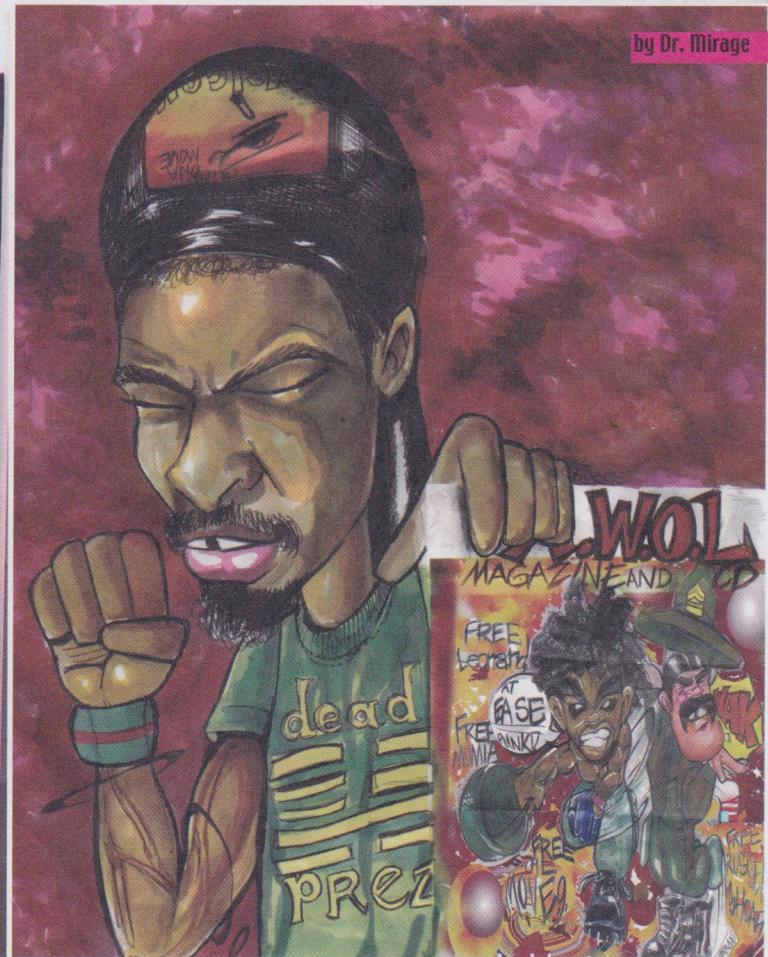


Haiti by KMZ



HIROSHIMA: AUGUST 6, 1945

by KMZ



by Dr. Mirage

# ARMY

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ?



## SEXUAL ASSAULT OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

When the Pentagon surveyed 50,000 active duty women in 1996, they found:

- 78% reported some form of sexual harassment;
- 40% reported being coerced, touched or cornered;
- 4% report having been assaulted (10 times the civilian rate!).

When the Veterans' Administration surveyed recent women veterans in 1995:

- 90% reported sexual harassment;
- Of those, 1/3 reported having been raped.
- Rates of reports of completed or attempted sexual assaults within the military were 20 times higher than those of other government employees.

The Veterans' Administration has served over 20,000 women since 1993 for post traumatic stress as a result of sexual assault while in the military.

When the Army commissioned a report in 1996-1997, they found:

**"Most women kept their complaints to themselves**, in many cases because they thought nothing would be done. Of those who did report harassment, 56% said that they had been urged to drop the complaint or had not been taken seriously, that **their supervisor had received the report with hostility** or that no action had been taken."

"Of the soldiers who indicated that they were sexually harassed in the last 12 months, 12% used the formal complaint system, 33% resolved their sexual harassment complaint informally and 55% apparently chose either to ignore it or handle it themselves."

The military has grown **well advanced in their sexual harassment** procedures. A recent high profile case of sexual violation (case of Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy) by a male Army General of a female Army General clearly illustrates this. **The male army General charged with sexual harassment in this case has also been put in charge of investigating cases of sexual harassment.**

# IT'S STILL A MATTER OF GENOCIDE

**Every year, we should ask** ourselves why this country celebrates Columbus Day. Would we celebrate Hitler's birthday, as a nation? Are Columbus and Hitler really so different?

Both initiated **genocide**, leaving a horrifying stain on history. The ideologies that drove the colonization of the western hemisphere and the Nazi program are the same: that one group of people is superior to another, justifying murder, rape and theft of land and property.

Columbus, a slaver by trade, documented in his own journals the heinous acts which he carried out against the indigenous people of the Caribbean who welcomed him with a great feast.

The ensuing 500 years saw the extermination of an estimated 100 million people. Colonists and missionaries documented wholesale murder, rape and maiming. At times, this even included **hanging pregnant women, cutting open their abdomens** and crushing the fetuses underfoot. It is no surprise that Hitler modeled his genocidal policies after what was done to Natives, including creating concentration camps based on reservations.

If we are going to celebrate Columbus for discovering this "New World" and initiating this modern society, then we should celebrate Hitler for all the contributions to the modern world made by Nazi Germany. As stated in the introduction to Ward Churchill's *A Little Matter of Genocide*, "The nazis were responsible for introducing 'our civilization' to, among many other things, the wonders of expressways, jet aircraft, missile technologies, synfuels, methamphetamines, the Volkswagen, and the basis for today's genetic engineering."

In the modern world we face rampant worldwide pollution, nuclear weapons proliferation and nuclear waste. While the Native Americans had not, obviously, conceived a utopian society, when you look at the **environmental destruction** and the fact that many

people today, especially Europeans and Euro-Americans, are turning to indigenous people for their knowledge of how to live in harmony with the natural world, one is left wondering how great this technological legacy really is.

The enduring legacy of Columbus for Native people is that we are still subjected to **gross violations of our human rights** and national sovereignty in the present day. American Indians' "Nelson Mandela," Leonard Peltier, is still in prison for his 24th year despite undeniable evidence of his innocence. The FBI continues to obstruct justice in his case because they fear that his release will shed light on the fact that a secret war was targeting Indian activists under the COINTELPRO program.

Mayans in Chiapas are still under military occupation, despite the election of a new president in Mexico who claims to support demilitarization and resuming peace talks. U'wa's in Colombia are in a state of seige as the army has been brought in to protect an oil drilling operation being conducted by Occidental Petroleum. The world's largest strip mine in the Black Mesa region of the Navajo Nation in Arizona has **displaced over 10,000** traditional Dineh (Navajo) under a program of forced relocation by the US government.

Everywhere, Natives face destruction of their lands, as natural resources are stripped away and pollution is left in their place, not to mention the ensuing social breakdown when a peoples' way of life is taken from them by force or fraud.



graphic by King Now

In every country in the hemisphere, Native people still endure governmental theft of their land, encroachments by white settlers, who massacre the people in the areas they wish to settle, broken treaties, forced programs of assimilation, militarization of their territories when they struggle for their human rights and forced sterilization of Native women. The Indian Health Service, which operates clinics on reservations, **sterilized approximately 42% of all child-bearing aged women** between 1970 and 1975 without their knowledge or consent.

As Native people we have never celebrated Columbus on October 12. We do, however celebrate the fact that after being subjected to one of the most sinister genocidal programs in history, we are still here, growing stronger every day. If it were not for **508 years of resistance** to this madness, we would not be here today to remind you of this history.

Jason Corwin is a member of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

THE SOURCE  
continued from  
page 4

of the  
water  
table in  
Vieques  
by the  
US Navy

bombing practices. The US Navy also rents Vieques to other military forces from Europe such as Holland, Belgium and Italy and receives more than \$100 million a year for such services. The cancer rate in Vieques is an extreme 27 percent higher than that of Puerto Rico.

The point is that the US Navy is committing GENOCIDE against the people of Vieques, and *The Source Magazine* is getting \$26,000 per advertisement in US Navy blood money.

Does *The Source* know that military recruiters are specifically targeting youth of color to join the military? I don't think they really care.

During the Indian Wars of the West, the US Army used Indian scouts to track down native people and to kill them or corral them onto reservations. The same thing is happening today, where Latinos are being recruited to fight covert wars in Latin America and the Caribbean, and African-Americans have been recruited to fight in wars in Africa and the Caribbean. Why? The answer is simple: people of color are expendable, and if the United States is fighting another country with brown-skinned people, then let brown-skinned people be the ones to do the killing, the ultimate in black-on-black crime masterminded by the US military.

A large number of the weapons in our streets can be traced back to surplus military weapons that were sold to the general public. When you see pictures on the news of Indonesian, Peruvian or Sudanese troops toting M-16s, they were bought from the United States, either directly or indirectly. In some cases, they were given to a country cloaked as a foreign aid package. This is currently happening in Colombia, South America.

Why are child soldiers killing each other in Burma with weapons that say "Made in the USA"? Money.

The same reason you find the US Navy advertising in *The Source Magazine*. Mad money.

Granted, you need money to publish a glossy magazine like *The Source*, but how much money? Beats the hell out of me, but I can tell you approximately how much money they made from me, and how much money they got from the US Navy.

I have had a subscription to *The Source* for two years now, which has cost me an estimated total of \$36. After I picked up my November 2000 issue of *The Source Magazine* and found a US Navy ad on page 89, I said to myself,

somethin' ain't right. So I looked through my crib and found nine issues of *The Source Magazine* from 1999. I found that two issues had US Navy advertising in them, one page per issue. So in 1999, *The Source* made at least \$52,000 from the US Navy. Now, 1999 was one of the military's worst years in recruiting, so for the year 2000 they had to step up their game.

Out of the eight issues I have for this year, six had advertisements from the US military, five issues with one Navy ad each totalling \$130,000; and two had ARMY ROTC ads in them, garner-

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# liberating minds instead of bodies

*"Revolution is not only won by numbers, but by visionaries, and if artists aren't visionaries, then we have no business doing what we do." -Cherrie Moraga, Chicana writer*

**Just as the Underground Railroad** of the days of slavery helped slaves liberate themselves from plantations, so does the Bay Area-based Underground Railroad help artists liberate themselves from commercialism that bleaches politics out of art.

As comrades, members of the Underground Railroad have been coming together from 1997 to build creative and respectful spaces that encourage revolutionary thought and action in our communities.

We strive to manifest these things in everything we do, from hip-hop parties to political education workshops to dirtstyle calendar organizers.

UR develops strategies and tactics using art and culture to inspire youth to action and widely disseminate messages to support ongoing campaigns for change.

Some of Underground Railroad's major accomplishments include producing 11 multi-media events highlighting various community issues and themes; providing visual and performance art to accompany direct actions, conferences and rallies; producing and distributing an all-female artist hip-hop recording against Proposition 21; educating and coordinating dozens of young, local artists to perform pieces about the growing prison industry and



by Eric Liang Norberg

particular issue, counter negative media representations of youth, women and people of color, reach beyond our immediate communities, feature local artists and provide an alternative funding source to sustain our work.

The popularity and response to our creations has brought national attention in print and radio to the issue of youth criminalization, and to the power of art and culture within movements for social change.

UR is also about empowering young cultural workers to be skilled, educated and expressive leaders in their communities by providing comprehensive, participatory political education and skills training in elements of art and cultural production.

The purpose of the Underground Railroad's art is to build community, honor your ancestors, inspire each other, let loose and make history, fight oppression, practice humanity, continue the struggle... otherwise, as Cherrie Moraga said, why are any of us doing it?

Contact the Underground Railroad at:  
1357A 5th Street, Oakland, CA  
94607.510.451.546, [ur@youthec.org](mailto:ur@youthec.org)

## bay artists of color liberate themselves from corporate slavery

Starting as a small collective led by women of color, the UR has grown to a cultural organizing collective committed to building a deep and wide movement for liberation that fuels the minds and spirits of our peoples.

training the staff & members of youth groups in elements of cultural organizing.

Through the creation of cultural products for sale and/or exhibition, UR promotes specific messages to educate on a



by Heather Clements

# 40 ACRES AND A POOL OF BLOOD

**The old bait and switch**, it may be the oldest hustle in the book. But as a wise man once said, "It may be old, but it's gotta work to be in the book." The bait and switch is simple; say one thing, do another, get 'em to trust ya, then stab 'em in the back. This is the premise for the latest "Spike Lee Joint."

## The Bait

In 1987, a young, brash, socially conscious, African filmmaker burst on the scene. His landmark film, *She's Gotta Have It*, whet the collective appetite of African moviegoers in the United States. At last, here was a brother who was going beyond blaxploitation, beyond the stereotypical roles for black folks in film.

"Yeah, good things are on the way from this brother," was the feeling shared by me and others, and he proved us right. *School Daze* examined Black self-hatred, the age-old light-skinned/dark-skinned fracas. *Jungle Fever* took the most serious and honest look to date at the subject of interracial relationships, not to mention the effects of crack cocaine on the African community. Over a decade later, *Do the Right Thing* remains as relevant today as the day it was released. The police brutality, racism and confusion depicted in Spike's 1989 masterpiece are still battering our communities on the daily.

When *Malcolm X* premiered, Spike spearheaded a return to consciousness, struggle, and hope that lay dormant for over a decade. This consciousness was manifested in hip-hop music, fashion, literature and activism. Everyone in the hood was rushing out to get ahold of the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*, women, children and men everywhere were rockin' "X" hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts, and more and more heads were recognizing, and taking a stand against racism and injustice. Spike helped to lead our thirsty people to a fountain of cultural awareness, pride and self-determination.

In addition to his message through film, Spike Lee spoke out personally on issues such as African representation in film, police brutality, African coaching and front office positions in sports and racial profiling. Through his high profile, vociferous nature, Lee repeatedly placed himself at the center of public controversy, yet continued to thrive as a major Hollywood player, all the while maintaining his street credibility.

## The Switch

After over 15 years of claiming to be "Mr. 40 Acres & a Mule," Spike Lee showed his true colors. Red, black and green? Hell nah! Red, white and blue? That's more like it. In actuality, Spike's true colors turned out to be green, green, and green!



by King Now

According to Navy Times staff writer Gidget Fuentes, Spike Lee, "...was the low bidder of three who submitted bids..." to produce a set of six recruiting ads for the US Navy. Lee reportedly will receive \$2.5 million for the ad campaign.

But why Spike Lee? Navy spokesperson Edward Brownlee tells CNN, "When people ask 'Why Spike Lee?' I say 'Why not?' He's able to connect with an audience we're interested in recruiting." Who better to lead young people of color into the blood-soaked hands of the Navy? When questioned as to why he would participate in doing the traitorous deed of leading primarily African and Latino youth to the mouth of the very beast that he, himself has acknowledged has historically and presently devours us, his answers are both insulting and infuriating.

"I'm very grateful to be given the shot," said Lee, "because there are some backward people in the world who have a very narrow vision of who I am, of what I'm about, and what I can do."

Here, Lee speaks in the unmistakable tongue of what Malcolm X deemed the "house negro," eager to please his master,

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# Black Surreal

when, how and why Black Surreal first got together:

**YETUNDE:** Me and my partner in rhyme met about five to six years ago through a mutual friend that he used to kick rhymes too, and I used to slide her revolutionary poetry. And she thought we should meet, so we hooked up at a local jazz spot and shit, you asked me, that's when Black Surreal was born. Two years later, we released "Massive in Yo Atmosphere," an enhanced CD.

the significance of the name Black Surreal:

**Jihad:** "Black" is all inclusive. From the start there was blackness. The universe was born from the black hole. Surreal means to me the ability to change one's situation and/or environment through art form.

**YETUNDE:** To expound on what my brotha said, "black" rooted in the understanding that out of darkness came light, and all of us that embrace consciousness in the midst of chaos and confusion know that it came to you out of darkness burning like a spear.

Accepting the torch from the foundation such as Black Liberation Army, Black Panther Party, Black Power embracing "black" as a state of mind.

I dig surreal becuz it is one of those rare english words that have no "concrete" definition. The brain searches for memories and body retentions to define it, and once you experience it, you cannot quantify it or measure it. So Babylon



## On another mental level

dismisses these type of experiences as frivolous... like most oppressed people issues.

*thoughts on the state of hip hop music right now:*

**YETUNDE:** The state of hip hop depends on where you dwell, from hip-pop rhetoric to the foundation (underground), and there are mad places in between. I tend to pledge allegiance to maintaining, uplifting and supporting hip hop culture, and not just pimping fractions of it becuz it generates loot. Sum shit in life is a lot more important to me than money. Despite that headz' visions are blurred from what they hear and see plastered on mainstream radio and TV.

There is a vibrant underground and I even argue that there is a middle ground. Shit, I just saw Dougie Fresh and he hasn't had a hit record in about 10 years, and he had about 500 people there in my small city. I don't base success in the music biz on record sales.

**Jihad:** Interesting; way different than when I got my first hit of hip hop culture.

*feelings on using music to politicize and educate the youth of today:*

**Jihad:** Every time an African person expresses themselves artistically, it should be to uplift our people. Even commercial artists should have loyalty to our upliftment. In this day and time, we don't have time 4 meaningless bullshit!

**YETUNDE:** You have to understand this is my life/religion, and my music is a sincere extension of me. Honestly, being "awakened" was truly a blessing and I have no choice but to put it down for the youth, cuz somebody put it down for

me.

The existence of conscious thought is revolutionary, in its being due to how much madness you're bombarded with constantly. Shit, who knows when my last breath will be, and I choose to leave a legacy of resistance, and dat's

Milwaukee-based hip hop group Black Surreal talks to AWOL about hip hop, politics and the space in between.

other headz' karma if they want to leave a legacy of pimping your mama and sister for loot. And when your "out of here" loot is meaningless, you can still definitely bless the planet with valuable jewels: Look at Frantz Fanon, Henry Clark, etc.

*militarization of our communities and the recruiting of young people of color:*

**YETUNDE:** All around the globe, oppressed people are manipulated to aid in their oppression. It is called mentacide. All wars sacrifice the poor (front line) at the expense of those in power to maintain their power. Those who benefit never even fire a weapon.

But Babylon's propaganda runs thick and potent like lava. Yo, Black Surreal is definitely against the recruiting of oppressed people to maintain their oppression. And as far as in our communities, refer to dead prez "Let's Get Free" cd, track 5 "Police State."

*next for Black Surreal:*

**YETUNDE:** Our latest collabo is due out Feb 2001(available on CD and vinyl). This time it'll be a full LP enhanced with a quick time movie, bio, photos, etc.... more grass roots and underground networking... hooking up shows around the globe, and constantly building.

# “WHAT'S UP, CHUCK D... WELCOME TO HELL!”



Those were the words spoken through one inch thick Plexiglas by a handcuffed **MUMIA ABU-JAMAL**, 51 miles south of PITTSBURGH, PA in GREENE COUNTY, the poorest county in the state, an area on the border of PENN-WEST VIRGINIA that used to be coal miner country.

I visited him for two hours on a Friday fol-

lowing a lecture at Cornell University in upstate New York. He's not allowed personal physical contact, he gets one two hour visit per week and he can't write with a normal pen and pencil, only the inner flex tube of a pen, as a result of a new law PA enforced for DEATH ROW inmates. They call these the "MUMIA" laws.

He told me that when he entered the prison in 1983 he was in the hole for seven years, prohibited from dealing with the outside world, and by 1990 was allowed to see TV, and was twisted at the distorted images coming out of it. We talked about the manipulation of images today and he mentioned his legions of support come from the unexpected, whereas the black community's ever increasing "robotic" powerless out-of-sight, out-of-mind existence deems this situation increasingly irrelevant.

It's crazy, isn't it... MUMIA'S situation symbolizes where we all could be headed if we don't take collective control of our destinies in the SNAKKES and exercise our power against injustice.

It was fucked up seeing this modern day slave-house, we both shook our heads at the corporate endorsement of THUG-IMAGERY, knowing that they're building spanking new prisons to lead young black men to those new ovens.

While there, I ran into PAM AFRICA of MOVE and I was helped by STEVE WISER, MUMIA'S spiritual advisor. We were also within an adversarial climate, being that the accused murder victim was a Philly cop. MUMIA has factually backed his innocence, but at this point it's a deep political issue where the prosecutors back then have elevated to

it was f\*\*\*ed up  
seeing this modern  
day slave-house,  
we both shook our  
heads...

judges, and city and state officials. THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE Gestapo has sworn to put pressure on anyone who dares to re-try this case and begin to get MUMIA out. So it's like he's a political rag doll.

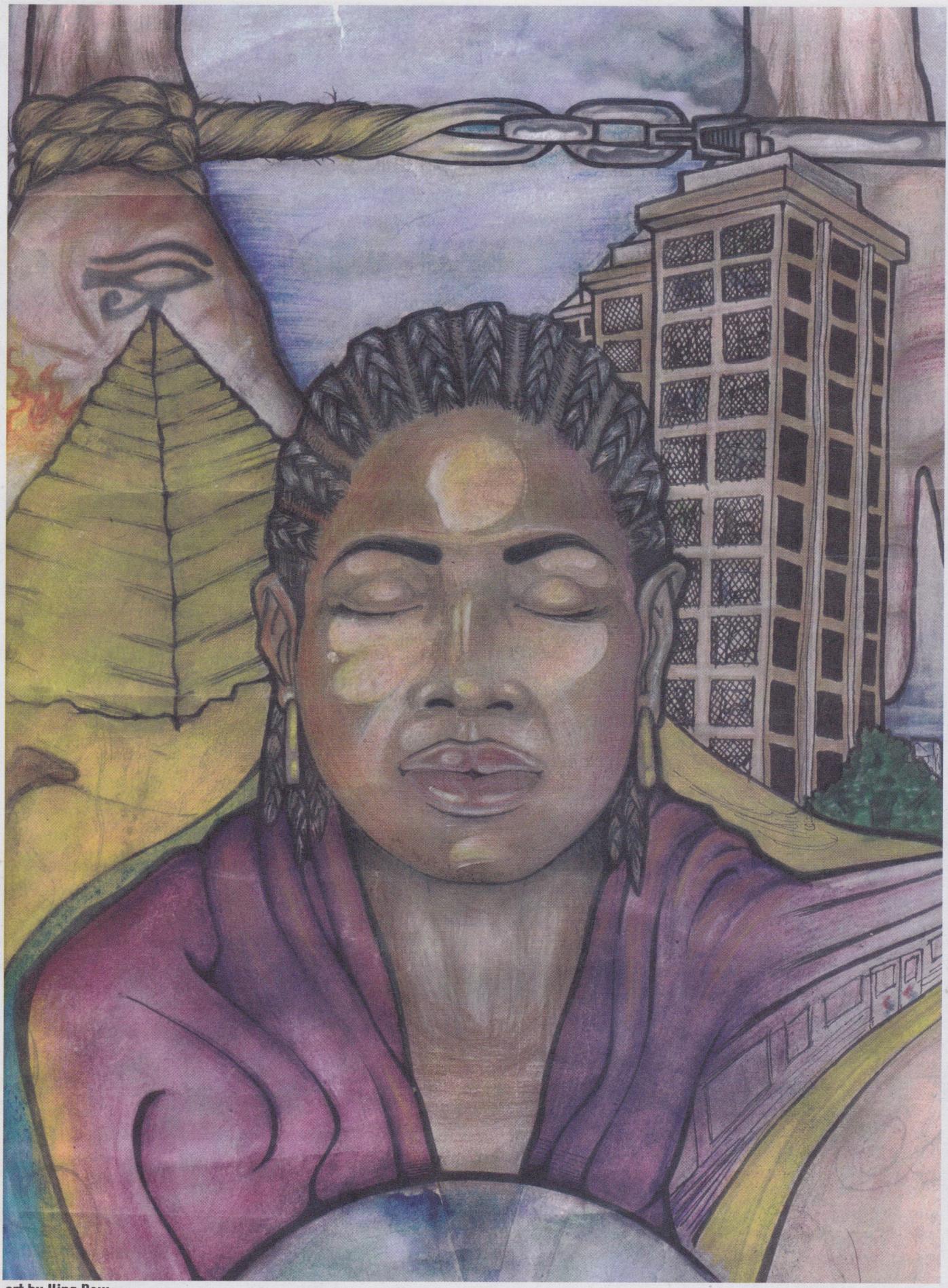
Three things: 1- He asked me to do the forward on his biography book, which I'm more than honored; 2- He lent materials and said that he would be a journalist on [www.rapstation.com](http://www.rapstation.com); 3- On the way out, I found out that rapper COOL C is incarcerated there as well. Almost forgotten about with his partner STEADY

B, accused of shooting a Philly black female officer, I'll visit him one day as well. Although an entirely different situation with the same result, the day left a bitter-sweet stain in my head. Soon I'll visit JAMIL ABDULLAH AL-AMIN (formerly and forever H RAP BROWN).

-by  
**Chuck**  
**D**  
10/16/2000



both art pieces by Dr. Mirage



art by King Now

# protesting and partying with AWOL rebels



Photos from top right to bottom left: 1. M-1 from Dead Prez and AWOL staffer Mario Africa at the Attica : No More Prisons Concert in NY 9/17/00 2. Headrush at Attica show 3. Not4Prophet from Reconstruction at Attica show 4. M-1 at Attica show 5. Mike Africa and C Rayz Wallz, AWOL artists, at Attica show 6. Warrior's Blood at the Unity Concert at the RNC protests, 8/1/00 7. Queen Godis at the Seeds of Wisdom CD release party 1/26/01 8. AWOL artist Stewy Nuke-em at MOVE benefit in Philly 8/8/00 9. dead prez at MOVE benefit 10. Anti-death penalty protest in Philly, 10/26/00 11. Seeds of Wisdom at their CD release party 1/26/01

NOW THEY DON'T WANT US TO KNOW SQUAT  
BUT I'M BLOWING UP THE SPOT  
ANYWAY  
CUZ ANY DAY NOW  
THE PROPHECIES  
FOUND IN NEW TESTAMENT  
COULD BE FULFILLED  
BY GLOBAL INVESTMENT  
AGREEMENTS MADE BY MULTI NATIONALS  
WITH MULTILATERAL  
MOVEMENTS  
FROM INDIA TO MEXICO TO BRAZIL  
WHILE THEY COLLECTING MORE CAPITAL  
WE JUST COLLECTING MORE BILLS,  
FOR ALL THOSE LOOKING FOR A THIRD PARTY  
I'M LOOKING FOR A SECOND,  
ONE THAT MIGHT ADDRESS  
SOME OF THE PROBLEMS  
CAUSED BY THIS SYSTEM  
WHERE EVEN AT THE TOP YOU EXPENDABLE  
THROUGH HIP HOP WE SEEK TO PROVE  
WE'RE INDISPENSABLE.  
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US  
CAN SHINE IN THE SUN N BUST  
RHYMES BOMB BREAK OR MIX  
IT DON'T TAKE CUSHED ICE ON YOUR WRIST  
JUST A MIC SOME TABLES CANS N CARD BOARD  
THAT'S ALL YOU NEED  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT AT HOME  
BOARD WATCHING TV  
HIP HOP IS POETRY ART MUSIC DANCE  
TRANSFORMING MERE  
EXISTENCE TO A STATE OF EXPANSE  
HIP HOP RESULTS  
FROM THE MESH  
OF WESTERN SLAVE CULTURES  
LIKE JAMAICAN DJS  
AND POOR GHETTO NEW YORKERS  
AFRICAN SLAVES IN BRAZIL  
MADE APRICAR  
MASKING THEIR RESISTANCE  
IN RITUALS OF ANGOLA  
FROM WHO B-BOYS STOLE ALOT  
YO, THEY WAS TAUGHT BY CAPOESTAS  
BREAKERS DJS AND MCS ALL FIT MY THESIS  
PLUS WRITERS BOMBING PIECES  
HIDDEN IN THEY SCRUALS  
IS THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION  
READ THE WRITING ON THE WALLS  
HIP HOP FROM ITS INCEPTION  
HAS BEEN INSURRECTION  
BORN OUT OF STRUGGLE  
A REBELLION TO REPRESSION  
THE GEMINATION MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION  
PLUS A WAY TO RELAX  
KICK BACK RELEASING TENSION  
THE HOPE FOR THE BROKE  
THAT'S WHY IT'S DISCREDITED  
YET  
I HEAR IT EVERYWHERE  
WHEN IT ACTS AS A SEDATIVE  
OR IS USED TO HURT US  
BUT STILL  
IT MAKES THE SYSTEM NERVOUS  
CUZ THIS MEDIUM OF HIP HOP  
IS SO MOTHERFUCKING PERFECT.  
PERFECT TO BREED IGNORANCE  
PERFECT TO EDUCATE  
PERFECT TO PROPAGATE  
LOVE OR HATE  
PERFECT TO PUSH  
THEY MARKET BASED  
FREE TRADE VISION

WHERE RHETORIC IS DEMOCRATIC  
REALITY CAPITALISM  
WHICH ARE DIAMETRIC OPPOSITES  
THAT'S WHY I'M DROPPING THIS  
MCS NEED TO BE STOPPING THIS  
CARTALIST  
PROPAGANDA THAT THEY SPREADING  
CONSUMERISM GOT US HEADING  
STRAIGHT TOWARD ARMAGEDDON  
YOU THINK THAT YOU WON'T BE DEAD  
WHEN IT'S 300 DEGREES  
CAN'T BREATHE NO TREES  
BOTH FOOD AND WATER  
CONTAMINATED WITH DISEASE  
MIC HOLDERS NEED TO BE SOLDIERS  
IN THIS WAR ON THE POOR  
WE FIGHTING DEFENSIVE BATTLES  
HELP US MAKE IT MUCH MORE  
BE A WARRIOR FOR THE PLANET  
TAKE A STAND  
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS  
CASTING SHADOW  
ALL ACROSS THE LAND  
FLIP THE SCRIPT  
HIP HOP COULD MAKE A CHANGE  
IN PEOPLE CONSCIOUSNESS  
KICK SOME REAL MOTHERFUCKING GAME  
AMENDMENT 13  
FREE ALL BUT THE INCARCERATED  
SO LOW WE GO IMPRISON  
THE WHOLE POPULATION  
WORKING FOR THE CORPORATIONS  
CONQUERING MANIPULATING  
THROUGH COMPETITION  
AND DEGRADATION  
ALL UP IN YOUR PRESENTATION  
FUCK BATTING  
THAT'S DIVIDING MANIFESTING MISERY  
WE GOT TO BUILD DEBATE  
AND REVIVE OUR HISTORIES  
WE GOT SOME RARE OPPORTUNITIES  
THE HIP HOP SENSIBILITIES  
BEEN PUSHED TO THE FOREFRONT  
OF THE MEDIA MACHINE  
BECOME A TOOL OF CORPORATIONS  
PUSHING CORPORATE DREAMS

FLIP THE SCRIPT  
BECOME A ALCHEMIST  
TOWARD OUR ENDS WE UTILIZE THEY SHIT  
FLIP THE SCRIPT  
THE INFRASTRUCTURES BEEN LAID  
THROUGH THE INTERNET  
INDEPENDENTS GET PAID  
FLIP THE SCRIPT  
WE BOUT TO HAVE DISTRIBUTION  
IT ALL IN THE CONTENT  
VOICE YOUR DISSENT  
REVOLUTION  
IS AT THE ROOTS OF HIP HOP  
FROM GIL SCOTT TO NIABINGY  
BAMBOY TO LINTON QUINCY  
MARLEY DAVIS TAKE 183  
JAMES BROWN TO MOTOWN  
FIVE STARTERS LIKE RON CARTER  
AND COLTRANE PUT IT DOWN  
GRANDWIZARD THEODORE  
AND MANY MORE LOKE PASTINA AND PHASE 2  
I THOUGHT Y'ALL KNEW BOUT FOLKS LIKE  
DOZE AND BODE  
DJ COOL HERK  
KRS AND U-ROY  
ALL PUT IN WORK TO DESTROY  
THIS SLAVE SOCIETY  
AND BUILD A WORLD  
WHERE EQUALITY AND JUSTICE  
IS A MUST UP IN THIS  
TRANSFORM YOUR ANGER AND PAIN  
INSTEAD  
TO STEER US OFF THIS DEAD COURSE  
THE CHOICE IS YOURS  
BE GANGSTER ALIGNED WITH SELFISHNESS  
GREED AND EVIL  
OR USE YOUR MAGIC AS A CATALYST  
TO ACTIVATE PEOPLE

HIP HOP  
WE'RE HERE  
TO MAKE THE PEOPLE ROCK  
BUT NOW IT'S ALL ABOUT  
WANTING THINGS TO FLAUNT  
IT'S A MULTINATIONAL  
CORPORATE PLOT  
THIS SHIT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OURS  
BUT NOW THEY DONE CO-OPT  
HIP HOP  
IS SPOSE TO BE FOR THE HAVE NOTS  
NOW IT'S ALL ABOUT  
WHAT KIND OF LABEL YOU ROCK  
IT'S A MULTINATIONAL  
CORPORATE PLOT  
THIS SHIT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OURS  
BUT FOLKS DONE FORGOT  
THIS SHIT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OURS  
THIS SHIT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OURS  
THIS SHIT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OURS  
TO GET THE PEOPLE HOT.

WORDS AND VISUALS BY  
ARIEL SHEPARD FOR AWOL  
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# Dealing Death to Youth: Drugs Pushers? No, Recruiters

Bruce Howard is an activist with the New Jersey ROOTS local.

**Picture this:** A young man is waiting outside an automotive service garage for his oil to be changed. A purple minivan pulls up to the curb beside him. A man steps out quickly and tries to push a deal on the young man.

It happened to me. Just the other day, I was approached by a military recruiter and it seemed more like a drug deal.

As I said, the officer got out of the minivan and began to walk towards me. (If I had been dressed differently, would he have approached me?) He smiled and gave a greeting, something like, "How are you doing?"

I said immediately and with a rejecting gesture of my hand, "I don't want to join."

He asked me what I was doing for myself. I told him I was working. He asked if I had graduated from high school. I said I a GED diploma. He asked if I was in school now, and I said I was saving for it, which I am. He told me the military would pay 75% of my college tuition towards a bachelor's degree. I asked him what kind of education the military itself would give me. He said I could learn computer training and "fix airplanes and stuff."

I asked him if he had ever killed anyone. He said he hadn't, but if it came down to it, he would. I said I was dedicated to nonviolence. Throughout the conversation he kept saying that he respected my beliefs. Yeah, right.

Then he came up with different scenarios. He asked what would I do if another government came over here and enslaved everyone and told us all what to do. I said I would "directly, openly and nonviolently resist it." He asked, "Even if they were beating you up?" I answered yes, as anyone dedicated to nonviolence would.

He brought up another scenario: "Now, what if someone broke into your house, beat up or raped your sister or something like that?" To that I responded that that was a different situation, a personal situation not a governmental or political situation, and that the two aren't com-

the best country in the world because he's seen other countries. I asked him if he'd ever been to Europe. He said no. He said we have the best police, that there are only a handful of bad cops out there, and that most of the police force is "good."



parable. I think he expected me to be trapped in my beliefs.

He went on to say he had served in the Gulf War. He praised the United States for "defending" a country under attack by another country. I remarked that countries invade other countries all the time.

Then he asked if I drive. He said that I wouldn't be driving today if the United States hadn't gotten involved in the Gulf War because gas prices would be so high—proving the activist stance that the Gulf War was a blood-for-oil war! I didn't mention the destructive role the Gulf War had played in the life of the Iraqi people (although I wish I had).

He said he knew the United States was

What a strange experience it was! I was ready to refute his offer, but I think about all the other young people this man will be approaching around my neighborhood. Most young people out there don't know the truth about military life and the role the military plays in the world. It sounds like such a fine deal: the military will give you an "education" and pay for 75% of your bachelor's degree and "take you around the world." What young person in today's economy could afford to pass that up?

Students see the ads on youth-oriented television programming, they hear the ads on the popular radio stations, they see the recruiters welcomed in their schools. I even saw a recruiting brochure holder at my old job at Taco Bell—of course I recycled the brochures. I saw numerous brochures (recycled) at the high school I went to, along with an occasional recruiter (whom I was unable to recycle).

I got packets of advertisements in the mail and phone calls from a recruiter twice. The phone calls, in fact, were from the recruiter I saw at the garage. He even knew what year I graduated from high school and what school I graduated from. That shows the schools are openly and willingly giving this information out.

The dealers of death are calling the youth of the nation, one by one. Over the phone, in the mail, in the school, on the street corners, they are out there suckering those who have no other option and those who do not understand what military life really is about.

# BROWN FACES ON FRONT LINES

**US military presence colonizes** not only the run-down city streets of any Third World country, but also the impoverished communities of color right here in the United States. The old slogans — "Aim High," "Be All You Can Be," "The Few, The Proud... The Marines," and "Go Navy!" — have entrenched themselves into the daily realities of people of color, throughout America's urban battlefields.

Yes, these are the same battlefields that instruct African youth to "Just Do It!" while assuring them that Colt 45 "Works Every Time," the same playing field on which the US encourages young Latinos to "Just Say No!" all the while extending an open invitation to "Come to Marlboro Country."

Exactly like its counterparts in the fashion, alcohol, drug and cigarette peddling rackets, the US military is concentrating its efforts on attracting young people — and, as usual, young people of color are its most desired commodity.

**In 2000, recruiters made unprecedented efforts to lure Third World youth into the lowest ranks of the military.** Latino youth comprise the most sought-after group of prospective recruits in the land. For the past year, Secretary of the Army Luis Caldera has been trotting the country, invading inner-city schools, telling tales of unlimited opportunity for Latino youth in the armed services.

If careers in the military are a world of opportunity for Latino youth, why does it continue to hold true that only 3% of commissioned officers are Latino, as compared to whites who make up 81% of officers? [Army Times, 6/21/99] While being grossly underrepresented in the officer corps, Latinos have historically been over-represented in one crucial area: casualties in war. An overwhelming 28% of the names on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC are Latino. [Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Report]

In further desperation to meet their recruiting goals, the military has decided to undertake another mass expansion of its Junior Reserve Officer

Training Corps (JROTC) program. These programs are traditionally concentrated in communities of color. Their goal is to lure as many youth as possible into the lowest ranks of the military. Interestingly enough, this expansion comes at a time when overall recruiting is slightly down, especially of youth of color.

As is often the case, when the number of Third World youth decreases either in the make-up of the military or the prison population, the US sees an instant problem and wastes no time in reversing this trend. The prior JROTC expansion took place in 1992 in the aftermath of the Gulf War, and the L.A. uprising. "[JROTC's 1991]...revival was precipitated by the Los Angeles riots," writes Shelly Reese, for *American Demographics Magazine*, "The riots underscored the lack of opportunities for teenagers in economically disadvantaged areas. That led General Colin Powell to lobby for expanded JROTC."

JROTC brings its military curriculum, along with its astronomical, financially oppressive price tag to communities of color with many lofty claims. JROTC claims to be a dropout prevention program, a civics program, a course on citizenship and a "Say No to Drugs" class. When asked to substantiate these claims with actual figures, Lt. Col. Torbert of Atlanta JROTC admitted, "getting this data is like nailing Jell-O to a wall."

One thing the figures do support, however, is that JROTC is an effective tool for luring economically challenged youth into the lowest ranks of the military. "About half of all graduating high school seniors with more than two years' participation in JROTC end up



art by Dr. Mirage

joining the military," Reese writes.

**Brutality, injuries, gangs, shooting incidents: all have been documented in connection with JROTC units across the country.**

At a time when we're fighting to get guns out of our schools, many JROTC programs have "marksmanship programs" — teaching students to assemble, load, aim, and shoot guns within our public schools.

Unlike the draft, which forced poor people and people of color into the military's lowest, deadliest ranks, today's "poverty draft" is much more devious. The "poverty draft," also known as "economic conscription," primarily targets youth of color from low-income areas, urban and rural.

Aside from the US's inherent racism, xenophobia, and historical victimization of the poor, the military and its recruiters prey upon the economically

continued on page 43

# america's exchanging bombs for kids

Eric M. LeCompte is the national organizer of the Pax Christi USA Bread Not Stones Moneymobile Bus Tour. The Moneymobile and its occupants traveled on a coast to coast tour, Sept. 4 through Nov. 2, 2000, driving home the point that we need to cut Pentagon spending in order to improve the lives of our kids.

**Maybe if we had driven fast enough**, we would not have seen the nation that we were cutting across in 60 days. Our nationwide tour to redirect Pentagon spending to the needs of our kids began Sept. 4 in Los Angeles. Early on, our bus - The Bread Not Stones Moneymobile, a.k.a. Mabel - had maintenance problems. Consequently our top speed was 45 miles per hour.

A tired bus and tired bodies - every day working, every day driving - every day working to drive home the point that we are in an arms race with ourselves, depleting our national resources to feed the insatiable dragon.

The dragon, the Pentagon, demands more and more, taking its food out of the mouths of our babes. It consumed \$271 billion in 1998 and will eat up \$310 billion in fiscal year 2001.

After Los Angeles, our travels took us past the military bases and armories that we were to pass all across the nation. If we had traveled just a bit further along Interstate 15, we would have reached the Nevada Desert, where nuclear testing still haunts the sands and Joshua trees.

Alongside this plethora of military installations (evidence of US spending priorities) we saw very real human need. Along Interstate 40, our next stop was Gallup, New Mexico, where a teacher from Gallup Middle School told me, "It's like a Third World country here." In New Mexico more than 26% of the kids live in poverty.

We continued to Albuquerque, where Interstate 40 meets Interstate 25. If we had headed north, we would soon have come to Los Alamos Laboratories, where the sins of nuclearism continue.

Or, if we had chosen to take Interstate 25 south, we would have come to El Paso, where Mexicans try to gain access to the United States because they have no hope at home.

What would it take for people from such countries to have hope? The United Nations Development Program estimates that the basic health and nutrition needs of the world's poorest people could be met for an additional \$13 billion per year--close to 4% of this year's Pentagon budget.

We continued traveling in the Southwest, coming to Amarillo, Texas, where we stayed at the Peace Farm across from the Pantex plant. We still heard the echoes of the trains, loaded with nuclear weapons, that once originated from here.

In Amarillo, Bishop Matthiessen joined us. He questioned whether or not workers at the Pantex plant can work at the plant and still follow their Christian ideals.

We continued through Texas, passing Goodfellow and Dyess Air Force Bases among many others, musing why we have 11 million kids in the US without health insurance and why close to 1.5 million of those kids live in Texas. Why

do more than 25% of the children in Texas live in poverty?

Upon our arrival in St. Louis -- the headquarters of military contractors McDonald Douglass - we discovered another robbery: the pockets of the executives of such companies have been well-lined by the Pentagon and its

**1998 Pentagon budget: \$271 billion.**

**2001 Pentagon budget: \$310 billion.**

**1998 on nuclearism: \$35 billion.**

**Every US state receives less federal money than it did in 1980. Money that once went to social programs has been diverted to the military.**

**35 million people live in poverty. About 1/5 of all children live in poverty.**

**2/3 of kids eligible for Head Start are cut because of funding. 80 to 85% of public schools need significant repair.**

desire for more and more weapons.

In the 35 cities we visited in this 60 day tour, we did a show with giant, inflatable balloons, driving home the point that if we cut Pentagon spending, we can radically impact the lives of our kids in the US. Our crowds ranged from 10 people to 1400 people. It is not enough, but it is a start.

As the Joint Chiefs and the political establishment call for more to be fed to the insatiable dragon, we will stand on the side of life, because the lives of our children - and all of us - depend on it.

-Eric M. LeCompte

**What liberties flow from bayonets' plunge/Or freedom born by unleashed passions/One cannot think of youth's blood spilled in vain/Or heroes drugged by patriot's myths/If guns could free/And bombs breathe life/We would be free indeed.**



by Kiilu Nyasha

# MY JOB IN THE MARINE CORPS

My job in the Marine Corps is to be obedient, ignorant, and willing to do any tasks at the snap of a finger.

My job in the Marine Corps is to be willing to take part in any battle that has nothing to do with the interest of the common people but the wallets of our masters.

My job in the Marine Corps is to learn how to be efficient in doing and not questioning.

My job in the Marine Corps is to be convinced that what we do is "noble," "heroic," and "brave."

My job in the Marine Corps is to be lifeless, and set extra rules and boundaries in my lifestyle in order for me to be transformed into a "Good Marine."

My job in the Marine Corps is to bow down to authority and through that process, take on the same role and expect those junior in rank to me to do the same in.

order for strict order.

My job in the Marine Corps is to be a mindless robot.

My job in the Marine Corps is to, at whatever given moment, put my life at risk for the "call of duty."

My job in the Marine Corps is to be without emotion—to be stone faced and mannered—that is, considered hard and motivated, which are key ingredients in being a "Devil Dog."

My job in the Marine Corps is to put the responsibility of my family aside 'cause it will not correspond with the Marine Corps.

My job in the Marine Corps is to allow myself to lose my essence, individualism and sense of self to excel in this institution.

My job in the Marine Corps is to degrade my personality to respect my oppressors.

--Daniel Alvarado

If you've missed the military recruiting platoons in your school or community, look no further. They will fulfill the missing link to **sweatshop abusing multinational** greats like the GAP or Star Bucks in your local shopping center. The goal is to reach a greater audience and sell the military like a new pair of **blood-dripping Michael Jordan**-endorsed nike-kicks. This measure reflects a recent trend in a **years-long recruitment drought**. More and more young folk are growing privy to what the military is really about.



1995

Theodore M. Harris

**For a long time we hardly ever got to see the birds.** Only those big, mechanical iron birds roaring through the sky over SCI-Greene. Perhaps they stayed away because they were fed up with seeing their comrades falling to the fusillade of flesh-gorging bullets during hunting season - which, for the tobacco-spitting rednecks up in these boonies, is all year round. Did the birds believe the men on Death Row were among the culprits? In the exercise yard, they always kept their distance, small beady eyes watching us with a sense of fascination and distrust. They never came in close.

"Aw, c'mon, Mu', you know that shot was out. Out!" Willie protests.

"Good!" Mumia shouts in his booming baritone. "It's good! I ain't trying to hear dat!" He moves with the graceful feline ease of a big powerful black cat, and rips another fierce shot against the back of the wire-mesh grate of the dog cage, his long dreadlocks flailing wildly like thick electric cables.

The handball wings back with such force and speed - Zing! - Willie is caught off guard. He dives headlong towards the oncoming missile and crashes to the ground. The ball sails past. Sputters. Bounces. Pit Pat Pit Pat.

"I ain't got nothin' to do with it, man," says another.

The birds perched atop rooftops or leaning on window sills seem disinterested in the outcome. Win or lose - they know they can count on Willie Sneed to feed them. Occasionally, a leader glides up to the edge of the cage, as if to cheer Willie on - or say, "Look, man, can you git this match ova wit, so we can eat?" Next game Willie tries to break Mumia's serve - he arcs his right arm high and drives his fist into the ball hard. It whirls vertiginously. Bounces. Spirals off the concrete floor with blazing speed. Willie swings. Mumia counters. Willie pivots, pants, spit, grunts,

## willie, mumia and the birds: a true story

by reginald sinclair lewis

But when Willie Sneed was transferred from a federal penitentiary to Pennsylvania's Death Row, his arrival seemed to spur a sudden invasion of the birds. Sparrows. Pigeons. Ravens. Birds of lustrous colors and exotic plumage. Gentle-eyed creatures. Birds we ain't neva seen 'round these parts. Only Willie Sneed knows their names. He's Mumia Abu Jamal's handball partner. They get it on every morning. A typical match goes like this:

"You alright, Brotha?" Mumia asks, concerned. He leans down to offer a hand. Sweat pours profusely from Willie's bald pate.

"Don't worry about me," he snaps. "Just play ball, man." He struggles to his feet, wipes the dust off his pants, and the sweat from his face. The volleys are fast and furious and longwinded. Rubber explosions resounding off concrete and steel and defiant black fists.

Mumia scores. Game. Another one.

"Aaaaah!" Willie screams in frustration. He accuses Mumia of cheating, of blocking his lane, obstructing his arm. On and on. They haggle over a ball. Sneed swears is out-of-bounds. He uses this grievance to buy more time to catch his breath, to cool Mumia down, but he peeps his game.

A thunderous shot pierces the wind and dust of Death Row. Willie claims this one is out-of-bounds, too. He looks around for an ally to support his argument, but the inmates look away.

"I didn't see anything, Brotha," one tells him.

sweat, swings again - and misses. Those black Amazon girls, Venus and Serena, would've applauded the effort.

"Game!" Mumia shouts. "Yeah! Yeah!" He throws up both his arms like a triumphant heavyweight champion.

"Aw, go 'head, Mu'," Willie says playfully and waves a sweaty hand dismissively.

"Samsonite! Samsonite!" Mumia booms, taunts, flexes, (all in good fun), he crooks his muscular arm, displaying ripples of steely chords. Willie turns away. He pulls out a white bag and sprinkles an exotic mixture of goodies on the ground. Suddenly the air is filled with the sound of wings aflutter and a cacophony of melodic chirps as a swarm of birds swoops down upon the sumptuous feast. Some of the birds eat right from the prisoners' outstretched hands. We watch. Awestruck.

There are gentle, talented, caring men and women languishing in prisons all across America. Locked down on Death Row. People of every ethnic and tribal classification - Afrikans, Europeans, Asians, Jews, Arabians, Mulattoes, Indians, Latinos and Native Americans. Prisoners who paint, draw, teach, build, work, sing, dance, rap, rhyme and WRITE. Like our Brotha Mumia Abu Jamal, whose brilliant mind and words



art by King Now

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# PRISON RAPE: DOES ANYONE CARE?

Rob Thaxton is an anarchist political prisoner in Oregon who was convicted of hitting a cop in the chest with a rock during an action in which the police attacked protesters. Rob received 88 months in prison. He has already served one year of his sentence. He wrote this article earlier this year about the injustices occurring to women in the growing prison industrial complex.

**Rape in US prisons** is so much a part of American culture, comedians and TV sitcoms refer to it as a way to score a quick laugh. The issue of prison rape points to many related concerns regarding civil rights, the health and safety of prisoners and the "build em and fill em" mania which has the US political system moving in a seriously dangerous direction.

The incredible growth of the punishment industry has made it an integral part of the economy, similar to the way the production of war materials is essential for economic growth. This booming industry requires ever more people to be incarcerated, for longer periods of time - it's all about jobs.

## Barrilee Bannister- Anti-fascist Fighter

My friend Barrilee from Oregon is so typical of the conditions abused prisoners face that it's impossible to separate her from the larger social and political issues which created and perpetuate these conditions.

This young, working-class single mother (there's three strikes against her already) lost her temper and attacked a monied white male who had recklessly endangered her and a friend's lives. Given extremely harsh treatment by the court, she was sentenced to around 12 years in prison, as one of the earlier victims of Oregon's mandatory minimum sentencing laws called Measure 11 (passed in 1995).

The state of Oregon was unprepared for the drastic increase in prisoners after Measure 11 was approved by the voters, and the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) decided to send a number of prisoners to Arizona: to the Corrections Corporation of America's Central Arizona Detention Center in Florence. Seventy-eight women were sent , among them Barrilee.

This was not a facility designed to accommodate women prisoners, and

all-male staff was quick to take advantage of their position of power over these women and began to coerce them into performing for them. Sexual assault and rape soon became regular aspects of these women's daily lives. Between 27 (according to Correction Corporation of America staff) and 50 (according to the prisoners) guards participated.

And this is no isolated occurrence, either, particularly when it comes to Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) facilities. Women in the Washington, DC jail are involved in court action against the DC Department of Corrections (DOC) for continual sexual harassment and abuse, including the use of force to make women prisoners dance naked for the guards. This, after having settled an earlier suit for \$8 million over sexual harassment by DC DOC staff.

At CCA/Florence, as is typical in such incidents, the women's complaints were not reported to the courts nor the appropriate law enforcement officials. Instead, the women were identified to the staff as "loud mouths," subjected to disciplinary actions like being placed into segregation units (the hole), good time being taken away and being fined. In addition to that, the sexual abuse continued and even escalated.

How far will governments and prison officials go to protect rapist guards? Rather than punishment, guards have sometimes been promoted after being accused. The state legislature of Michigan recently passed a law to prevent a lawsuit from being filed against the Michigan DOC by victims of sexual abuse by the DOC staff. In this instance, the government recognized that rape

was not an isolated incident in MDOC facilities, but that it was so widespread that if the state were found liable for it, they would be sued for millions upon millions of dollars.

## Fighting Back

When Barrilee and other women finally decided to take drastic action against CCA to put an end to their torture and humiliation, their story created a media blitz, and eventually, the women were returned to Oregon, and CCA fired or suspended three dozen staff members before ultimately closing the facility.

If this were a Hollywood story, Barrilee and the other women would have been released due to public outrage and a sympathetic court. In the real world,

Sexual assault and rape soon became regular aspects of these women's daily lives.

though, Barrilee is still in prison under the supervision of people whose jobs and careers she has put in jeopardy by standing up for her rights. She has been repeatedly warned to keep her mouth shut by the staff at Oregon Women's Correctional Center.

If there are three words to describe Barrilee, though, they are "fight, fight, fight." Utterly unintimidated, she continues to speak her mind and stand up for her rights. She still has seven years to serve.

### Who Cares?

Human Rights Watch's report "All Too Familiar: Sexual Abuse of Women in US State Prisons," along with dozens of individual and class action suits, suggests that sexual abuse of women prisoners is not only evident, but rampant in the US. Estimates run as high as 70 to 80% of women prisoners experience sexual abuse.

The apathy of the general public, politicians, media and courts has pushed some women prisoners to suicide - particularly in the states of Florida and Connecticut. This lack of empathy from the outside is only a single symptom of a greater lack of concern about abuses of power by those supposedly in charge of upholding the law.

Since the focus of spending for prisons has shifted to construction, priorities have also shifted away from programs to prepare the incarcerated for their return to society. Thus, the purpose of internment has changed from rehabilitation to punishment. This partially explains why the public is disinterested in the abuse - sexual or otherwise - of prisoners.

### The Home of the Brave

My courageous friend Barrilee's situation is a microcosm of everything wrong with this society's attitudes toward prisoners. And so far the Oregon DOC and OWCC prisonrats have been able to get away with this because the citizens of Oregon not only don't care, but many of them actually approve of the humiliation, beating and rape of prisoners.

Under red, white and blue fascism, the

American people have been conditioned to love the powerful and hate themselves, objectified as "others." When the corporate state closes the local factories and moves them to foreign lands, the media plays "America the Beautiful," the corporate leaders wave the flag and the politicians build prisons for the newly created underclass.

### Write Them!

Barilee Bannister #11309597  
OWCC 2809 State St.  
Salem OR 97310

Rob Thaxton  
#12112716  
Snake River Correctional Inst.  
777 Stanton Blvd.  
Ontario, OR 97914



art courtesy of the Maoist International Movement

# Thoze who struggle (for Merle Africa)

Thoze who resist must always exist  
in the mindz a the people  
thoze who struggle live on fo'evah  
in the soulz a the people  
too many fightaz die behind locked doorz  
too many killaz pullin worldwide tourz  
our blood stainz prizon floorz, and whutz mo'  
family getz ignored when this guv'ment declarez war  
if vengeance iz the Lord'z then this bullet mus' be  
yourz  
one mo' pitcha a Diana & I think Im'a shoot  
don't give a fuck 'bout fame royal name & some loot  
I'm down with the truth & thoze that die to speak it  
Tru professaz give they life to try & teach it  
Not just preach it or get rich tryin to bleach it  
Barz contain flesh but never control the soul  
Death iz just the final toll onna road to revolution  
& I hope I'm there when ya face yo' execution  
final solution destroyed by our unity  
we gon' fight to make this the real land a the free  
can't blind me to my family, see?  
Ya be killin fightaz like Merle but mourn fo' a  
princess  
Cuz in richness her death wuz good fo' yo' bizness  
Whut iz this? Where iz the love fo' our people? I pray  
fo' thoze who fight to make us equal  
Liaz thugz and murderaz think they so brave  
Will they be laughin when we be dancin on they  
grave?  
Once they dead they az good az gone  
But like Merle Africa my wordz go on & on & on...  
Cuz thoze who resist must alwayz exist  
in the mindz a the people  
Thoze who struggle live on fo'ever  
In the soulz a the people--Don't cry dry yo' eye  
Pick up the shotgun cuz it'z time to rize and rebel  
Devilz sneakin in from hell, well, if timez iz rough  
simply, get rougher  
Effortz increase to release sistaz and bruthaz  
King wuzn't the only one to be done by the state  
Yet we let them lie & try to escape from the blame  
fo' the pain of our chainz  
Can't restrain my anger atta world  
That honaz dictataz, but murdaz Merle Africa  
Ain't need no statuez to remember ya  
Truth shinez thru to spite they eyez  
Make em burn as we mourn and organize!  
Cuz thoze who resist must alwayz exist  
In the mindz a the people  
Thoze who struggle live on fo'ever  
In the soulz a the people  
... just becuz it'z legal, don't make it right...

-by KOT

# "the rate at which light can be seen hitting the surface"

**AWOL:** Explain the significance of the name Luminous Flux?

**Tysha:** My surname is Lightfoot. So I was looking up light in the encyclopaedia and when you think of time travel... they say if you can go the **speed of light**, then you can time travel. I saw Luminous Flux and the definition was "the rate at which light can be seen hitting the surface." So I said, "Damn, that's precise!" Plus the two separate words: Luminous; shining, bright; Flux ; motion, movement. **We trying to make things happen.**

**AWOL:** When it comes to hip hop, a lot of people focus on some of the negative aspects of hip hop, particularly the violence against women, the degradation or disrespecting of women and the idea that sisters in hip hop got to "strip" to "sell" so to speak. How does Luminous Flux deal with these issues?

**Tara:** I think that as long as we're not the ones in control of the companies that's putting out product and distribution, all we're gonna see is what they think can sell. It really doesn't bother me too much: **I know the game** and I know why that's out there. As long as we stick by one another, we wouldn't have a problem, we would have diversity. I have a problem with the individual, with people not being who they say they are, but I don't think it will last for a very long; it's been long enough already.

**Tysha:** One of our colleagues had the experience of putting a project together, and a DJ literally said **there ain't enough killing and bullshit** in the rhyme; so we ain't gonna play it. So I think that's another aspect to the game, once we get in, we just conform to what the adversary wants you to do and we don't wanna let nobody in that's gonna bring some kind of substance. So I think the record companies need to be stepped to, the deejays, the radio stations, they need to be stepped to because **it's destroying the community**. Now you got little kids just repeating these things because they think it's sweet like that.

**AWOL:** Being that a lot of young artists start out talking about social issues like police brutality, militarism and self determination, but in order to get signed they have to trade in their consciousness for the other script that so-called "sells;" how do you deal with that?



photos by Kevin Ramirez

bills through the knowledge I'm obtaining. That's what it boils down to, if you don't have self determination, then you gonna give up yourself and you won't mind.

**AWOL:** What part does spirituality play in your music?

**Tysha:** Spirituality is the basis of everything in my life. The creator has blessed us with information that we can move forward and be self sufficient, that's what it's all about: being free, **being sovereign**, and speaking for yourself.

**Tara:** What's the point in going on tour, having a record contract, and you don't do the music, you don't do the mixing, you don't do the recording, you don't do the distribution, no mastering or duplication? **So you go on tour, everybody knows your name but you make \$25,000 for the year**, you could have worked at the post office and had better benefits.

**Tysha:** And less aggravation!

**Tara:** Then somebody's asking you to ultimately be somebody for the rest of your life, and you know you're going to change and grow and they not going to change with you. **Then you stuck into playing a role** and acting for the rest of your life, being somebody that you have no desire in being.

**AWOL:** Can you talk about some of the activist or community service aspects of your music and performance?

**Tysha:** We did some stuff for the children around my area in Nicetown. We talked to the children about culture, community, respect, responsibility, all of the things that we are discouraged from. We as adults have to give these young people a clear picture of what's going on. **It's our responsibility to educate the young people.**

As you know I'm declaring my nationality, which we have been totally lied to about. When you ask a black person who they are they like, "I'm black and I was born here," well black is not a nationality, so that's basically my political focus on **self-determination**, claiming our heritage and history as our own.

Until we do that, you just have no idea who you are, so I think, in hip hop and seeing its growth, we constantly allow ourselves to be redefined by the dominant culture. My political stance is I am a Freeman, Muur of the Washitaw nation, and we helped build this nation and that's what I'm claiming and that's what I'm putting out there, cuz people need to know.

**Tara:** Word up. Our business is our business not nobody else's business. You got beef with me, you come and see me. You don't go see *Time* or *People* and let them play this person against this person.

**AWOL:** Do you feel like with the industry trying to create this other genre or this new classification that they are trying to dilute hip hop?

**Tysha:** Yeah well you see the N 'Syncs, and the Backstreet Boys. **We've been lulled to sleep in doing all these videos**, everybody bling blinging and showing they cars; there's no creativity involved, and **these white folks have been studying us** for the past twenty years and now they're coming out with our steez but they're being creative with it. I'm so tired of seeing tits and ass. I'm a woman and I don't need to see that. I wanna see something creative, I wanna see you do something with your music and make me move. So now we got

Eminem, winning awards for being the most creative hip hop cat.

**Tara:** It's a lot deeper than what people realize. We did a show at the Wetlands in New York and I was just amazed. There was a handful of black people in a 400-500 crowd, everyone else was white and Asian, Asians with locks and tans and Rastafarian hats. I had to touch the one guy's hair to make sure what it was, I couldn't believe it. Then we get up on stage, and **they're standing there in amazement**. They

might as well have pulled out notepads, pens and just took notes because all they did was watch us, the Cold Crush Brothers, C. Boogie Brown, and then went back and told their friends about us what we did, how we did it and **they gonna come out and take our stuff, do it and not put any of us on.**

**Tysha:** The hook that they heard that night was "life's a ghetto game, I want my name to raise you up, to a clear vision the adverse effect will have you in a mental prison, dependent on a **system set up for failure** but hip hop is 'bout to bail you out" and they was just like duuuuuu!!!

**AWOL:** We are in a situation today where young people of color, particularly Latino and African youth, are being targeted by the US military, more so than any colleges or any employers. Coming from the reality of us building their nation to now defending their nation, what kind of light can y'all shine on that?

**Tysha:** My grandfather was in WWII, and these brothers went out to fight for this country, and when they came back, **they couldn't get jobs!** And it followed suit with every war, and it's not just black people: It's white people too.

I mean, on our money we got "In God We Trust," but you can't mention God anywhere or somebody's gonna get offended, you're going against their right to be atheist or whatever, and I think it falls back to the nationalism

thing. If you don't know that you're on Washitaw land, along with your history, you ain't gonna get it. Now we're looking at an era in time where a lot of young people are having children and

**Luminous Flux is a Philly-based hip hop female duo, a righteous outpost in a sea of bling bling.**

if they are not being properly educated, the same nonsense is gonna repeat itself.

It all comes back to knowing who you are, knowing the truth and recognizing it when it's smacking you in the face. We got a lot of brothas and sistas, Christians, Muslims, they wearing they garb, but the religious aspect is only part of it, you claiming some religion; but you need to claim your nationality. For them to keep putting this garbage in our heads, it's keeping us way down, we got to recognize the nationality issue. **We gotta claim who we are**, the Latino brothas and sistas gotta know they the same thing we are, you a person of color first, and until we get together on that note, we gonna continue to be raped as a people.

**Tara:** It's all a game cuz **they play people** and put them in positions where they have little financial income and all the negative issues they constantly throw out there, and people are in that situation and then it comes back to now. That's why **blacks and latinos are going into the military more than college**. It's like playing basketball: "Yeah I go into the military I'll get education, I get to learn guns, I get to travel, and they give you some money;" "I go play basketball and I might not get to make the big money," so it's just another way of putting some money in somebody's pocket, making them happy for the meantime and by the time they realize what's going on, they too tired or old to fight or do anything about it.

# After Diallo: organizing for real power

**As Amadou Diallo was murdered** by the physical violence of the police, the racist courts hit us with psychological and spirit breaking violence via the court decision, a court decision that says that it is all right to use Black people as target practice in America. Police brutality against people of Afrikan descent and people of color in the united states is historically addressed ONLY after community-wide mobilizations or agitations, rallies, demonstrations, strikes, civil disobediences, civil disruptions and direct actions, from a march of 50,000 people to 30 people blocking traffic to communities taking an aggressive armed stance. The history books show we almost never win these causes in this legal "justice" system without these efforts.

State-sanctioned, racist police violence exists to murder and psychologically intimidate people of color and the poor by daily harassment, murders/executions and legal means. The structure of the courts is such that white racist and ignorant Black and Latino cops are able to get away with murder, while the community is nurtured into forms of psychological dis-empowerment or FEAR, as shown in Frantz Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth* or Welsing's *The Isis Papers*.

In fact we will all continue to be confused on the issue of police brutality unless we understand the function of the state and government, and its role to separate those that rule from those that do not.

What is the state? It is a psychologically and physically violent mechanism in society that keeps a homeless family from occupying an empty building in Harlem. It is a violent mechanism that prevents the masses from righteously snatching those four cops and ruling them guilty in a real people's court. It is the violence that protects the laws created to ultimately protect

the rich.

According to V.I. Lenin, the state is created when it becomes necessary to defend those that have from the have-nots. The state is the police departments, the military, the educational system, welfare, the prison system and the courts.

In this particular society all of these institutions were founded originally for the purposes of developing and maintaining the status of the White ruling class of this particular society. It is a legal arrangement to control all the oppressed and have them participate in their own degradation. This is not a criticism of all governments and states in history. It is a criticism of this particular euro-centric and imperialistic form of coercion.

According to Lenin, the capitalist state is one of the biggest scams of all time because it forces the people that are oppressed to pay for their own oppression and brutality: TAXES.

The White ruling class of this country does not have to focus their wealth into anything else but making more wealth because we pay for our own brutality.

Whether you work 40 hours a week or 60, taxes are forced from your labor and directed into the nightsticks that the cops beat us with. Your taxes are "jacked" from your paychecks for politicians, handpicked by the ruling class.

This state adapts with fluidity. It adapts like shedding its old skin. Business can continue as usual with uniformed Black and Latino faces pulling the trigger on their own people. It does not have to be that white cop. We have more Black and peo-

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# LIVING THROUGH A BLACK OUT

**Imagine...** the view from above a network of lights illuminating any major city in the world. The city's brilliant glow contrasts sharply against the infinite blackness of space.

Imagine now that the same system has been shut down. What happened to the light? Where did all the power go? Back to where it came from all along.

The power was not within the system itself. It came from a power plant – a generator of power – hidden somewhere out of view. When there is a blackout, we are reminded that any system without a generating force is powerless.

The cultural and artistic expressions of communities of color have long been the generating force in the shaping of the arts in America and around the world. This is what the Blackout Arts Collective (BAC) hopes to illuminate.

Blackout Arts Collective, a non-profit organization, cultivates and empowers the voices of people of color through the arts. Started in 1997, BAC utilizes the arts as a tool to address both social and economic issues, and to develop viable solutions for the struggles facing our communities. BAC's arts-in-education program works to enhance communication and engender self-esteem among young people.

BAC produces regular showcases to standing-room only crowds, featuring the diverse talents of people of color performing spoken-word/poetry, dance, music, drama, visual art and more, and hosts a monthly event called BLACKOUT.

The dedication of its members and enthusiasm of its audience has allowed BAC to grow further, establishing a sister organization in Boston, and will soon be coming to Philly to unite conscious artists of color with the flavor and issues of the different regions.



by King Now

In 1999, BAC proudly launched its Youth Enrichment Program, bringing interactive BLACKOUTs to schools and community-based organizations. These programs introduce many forms of creative expressions to youth to develop the voices of our future generation.

A BLACKOUT happens when the system fails us, when the artificial light fed into our homes and classrooms, work and social spaces, is disconnected. When we discover the structure has left us powerless, we have to find means outside of that structure to find our way. We must reacquaint ourselves with the creativity passed through generations to make sense of the infinite space before us. We must empower ourselves.

In a BLACKOUT, we ask, "How do you interpret the world?" Do you see it, visually? In a collage of colored strokes? Do you hear it, aurally? In a booming bass behind break beats? Do you feel it, kinesthetically? In the slow push of palms upon the air?"

In a BLACKOUT, we ignite our creative energies to liberate ourselves.

Contact BAC at [www.blackoutartscollective.com](http://www.blackoutartscollective.com) or contact BLACKOUT Philly at 1-888-236-2226.

## I AM the revolution

Breathe poems and smile symphonies  
Cry rain dances and yawn epiphanies  
My life IS the revolution.

"I am Beautiful!"

I cry

As I

Grind reggae beats eating cereal  
Finger basslines dialing the telephone

Punctuated by JB trumpet riffs  
While putting on my clothes

I Am

The Revolution

Revolves around me sending ripples

In infinite directions

As I wander aimlessly through the park

My thoughts are on heavy rotation  
Spinning requests from last night's remarks

Sparking spiritual rituals  
Creating life out of art

Yes,

The incense is going up in flames

I incite riots

Burning down wicks in sacred candles

I dismantle the System by plugging in my stereo

To listen to Goodie Mob or Bob Marley

Muralling worlds like Rivera

By fixing my hair up

And thinking

"I look good today"

I showed up on time  
(surprise!)

& a movement sprouted

I left self-doubt and criticism

In my back pocket-

It shut down the stock market...

I spared some change

(cuz change is all I really do have)

plus, currency is meant to flow

it finds its way back to you grown tenfold

shape-shifting a pair of dimes

into an abundance paradigm

now I'm rollin' in rainbows and angels

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# C Rayz Walz: Rhyming since the womb

## Who is C Rayz Walz?

**C Walz:** C Rayz Walz is the Sun Cycle MC, just an expression of energy all over the face of the Earth. The energy is used to make things grow and bring Life and sustain it.

## What is your mission? Why has C Rayz Walz come?

**C Walz:** C Rayz Walz mission is to be heard all over the world for my talent. I love hip-hop, I love rymin'. I want to spread information and agitate upon the things that are going on in my community that's keeping me and my people oppressed and stopping us from having equal opportunities to everybody else that's breathing the same air that we're breathing and bleedin' the same blood. This information, right here, is a powerful tool.

I wanna get heard, that's my main purpose, and after that it's just for the people. I'm not rymin' no ignorant lyrics, even if I'm spittin' a freestyle rhyme or a battle, there's still consciousness in there.

## How long have you been rymin'?

**C Walz:** Since the umbilical chord! I was rymin' to the ovary walls, I heard the beats inside the uterus and it was natural harmony. All the racket in the doctor's room just made it distracting to me. But I came out not crying. I was still focused.

## What part does spirituality play in your music?

**C Walz:** Everything is spiritual, physical and mental, so spirituality is 1/3 of my music. The other 2/3 is made up by the mental and the physical, because you can't have one without the other. They all reflect off of each other.

My spirituality ends and begins at balance. Everything is a balance. It's not all good. If it was all good, we wouldn't be oppressed and gettin' killed for no reasons. And it's not all bad, because we find happiness out of even the sorriest times. It's a balance.

Where we lost our spirituality, is when we started believing in things other than ourselves. We need to listen to ourselves more. We're connected to the Most High directly, Nature.

## AWOL is dealing with issues of military oppression, police oppression, all types of oppression. What must we be doing to combat this oppression?

**C Rayz Walz:** We livin' in a police state! The working class is taken advantage of every day, from contingent workers to people in prison. We all basically slavin' for this economy. All these businesses, all this hip-hop shit, all this movie shit, all this shit that's makin' money is basically controlled by five people. So the people gotta get together and form a plan, once we knock them five people off, we gotta know how we gonna move.

Now, this can't happen by ourselves, so the People's Army has got to exist, the working class, the ones who are goin' through this shit everyday have got to play a part. Even the ones that don't wanna get with it right away, they gonna hear it because they see what's going on in their face daily. We're just spreading this music and this movement to the young people's ears because they got the most drastic situation facing them right now.

In central booking you'll find nothing but hundreds of teens in jail for no reason besides hoppin' a train, smokin' a blunt, stealin' food, and they're goin' to jail for natural things. We livin' in a police state, so we have to get organized and know what's goin' on.

Since so many people are listening to Hip-Hop, that's the most powerful voice right now, and we have to use it to say more than how we feel about ourselves, and our material possessions.

## What can we be on the lookout for from C Rayz Walz?

**C Rayz Walz:** The Prelude LP is out right now. I have The True and Living Album ready, I've also got The Sun Cycle Album ready, and those will come out when it's time. Right now I'm just lettin'



everybody digest The Prelude.

I got a single comin' out on Detonator Records, the A side is called "Who the Fuck?" The B side is "Degreez," I also got a single comin' out on Rawkus, the A side is untitled, and on the B side we got "You Might Get Slapped". There's another single comin' out on Subverse Records. On the A side you got "Make it Happen", and on the other side you got "Mood Swings".

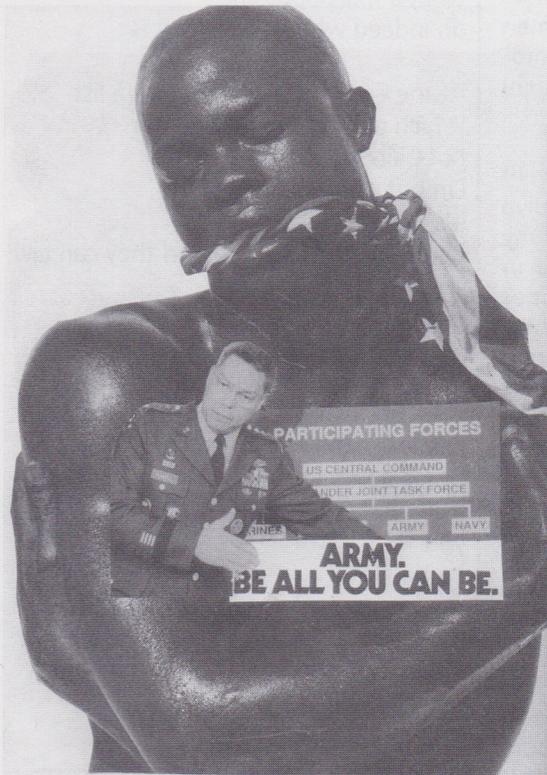
Other than that, expect me to be in your hood spreadin' the word about the beast that's tryin' to label us the beast. You can catch me freestylin' at all openmic ciphers that I'm able to get to. Catch me performin', showin' you all aspects of myself. Catch me battlin' to get enough money to pay the rent, catch me everywhere the sunlight is, touching all facets of the earth.

Expect nothin' but the real, expect change cause I'm never gonna be the same. It's just gonna get better, just expect me to get wiser, stronger, financially, mentally, and physically so I can kick the boot that's kickin' me. Expect me to stay on the move, 'cause we never stop movin', ya heard?

--Joey Thai

We moved slowly through the jungle, dragging our cold, stiff souls behind us. The rain, fallen from a black, starless sky was trying to tell us something but we had already gone deaf to it and let it roll off our faces onto the muddy path. Coughing and grumbling, we were desperate to drown out the cries of warfare, still rattling through our heads like shots from distant machine guns.

\*\*\*\*\*



art by KMZ

.....Ayo check the crime scene/ we overseen/ by pigs holdin' heat/ swearin' the systems sweet/ not hesitatin' to beat/ a body down/ so I came to surround/ sound off with a Molotov/ holdin' my ground/ tryin' to make it as an MC/ know what I mean/ its rough knowin' you could get killed over cream/ but that's real/ they sayin' that I gotta hold steel/ but fuck all that/ I ain't tryin' to get killed.....

\*\*\*\*\*

Somewhere in the aches and sores of my body, I knew I had a name. I reached deep, hoping to find it so that I could pull it out, wipe off the spit and blood, and pin it to my chest. My dog tag read "Anthony Torres Jr." That name felt as foreign as the land I was stumbling over. I looked around at the green herd moving me along, at my rifle, and back at the name. Praying for it to make sense, I whispered the words, "Anthony..... Torres..... Junior," and I watched them fall from my mouth into a cool puddle of rain.

\*\*\*\*\*

.....Set up but not shot down/ give my brother a pound/

What's up with all this military crap advertising it on T.U. and gettin people killed/like they usin crack whats up with that/why don't you give them the ral facts/on how you bribe them with school work and jobs so they can get they head blast/Yo theres a lot to say on how you leadin and is how most people are feelin/yo you ain't fixing by messing lives/and I really don't even know how you livin life/by Lindsay Pena

tell him keep it movin'/ for those that ain't around/ sacrifice/ givin' up they life/ so we could see the right path/ some still don't know the half.....

\*\*\*\*\*

## SHADOWS OF REVOLUTION

My red, weary eyes were pleading with me for rest. I held onto each blink for as long as I could, opening them repeatedly to the same drenched jungle. Still, each time I let my eyelids fall, I could drift away a little. I saw Julia speaking to me through dark red lips. I said goodbye, brought my hand down over her arm, and felt something kick from inside her round stomach. That last touch lit a match in my gut that had been slowly burning out my insides. I used to cry whenever my mind wandered there, but suddenly regular tears weren't enough. I needed to cry in long, streaming tears of blood.

\*\*\*\*\*

.....I hear the sirens every night/ tellin' stories of our plight/ it's like we're covered in gasoline and still askin' for a light/ but when the fire comes/ ain't no time to run/ better start now 'cause we're under the gun/ my momma taught me right from wrong/ but now I'm madder than King Kong/ been caged up a little too long/ know what I mean.....

\*\*\*\*\*

We must have been lost. The path eventually disappeared and we were left to fight through the jungle, going nowhere but further into the tangle of vegetation. The cruel squeals of bombs sounded in the air. An explosion scattered us, ruining the idea of a destination. It was followed by gunfire, then more explosions. Everything disappeared into a haze of bullets, brain tissue, heat, and screams. I closed my eyes and felt the burning metal rip into my chest.

\*\*\*\*\*

.....This is it/ now you got me throwin' a fit/ it's bullshit/ so this is what I'm comin' wit/ spit it back at the cat/ that tried to sell me his bum rap/ deservin' a slap/ for talkin' like that/ told me do shit right/ then you can live white/ get the big house/ long as you don't put up a fight/ and as for your cousin/ said he can come to/ bring the whole crew/ you'll look good in Navy blue/ but fuck that/ we fought too hard/ we mad scared/ holdin' onto the boulevard/ and I don't care what you heard/ 'cause now it's Anthony Torres the Third/ and I know where I stand/ in this diseased land/ with two middle fingers to the man/ who tried to kill my clan/ if you knew what was goin' down/ then you'd get out of town/ return the crown/ and spread the message around/ we stare into the light 'cause we ain't scared y'all/ we step into the light 'cause we all heard the call.....

-Luis Rodriguez

# matters of conscience

Patrick Sheehan-Gaumer wrote this letter to the president of Earlham College, because he had been denied financial aid due to his status as a conscientious objector.

April 4, 2000

Dear President Doug Bennett,

I am writing to you because the financial aid office said that, in order to appeal for the replacement of federal funds, I needed to explain to you my reasons for not registering with the Selective Service. I realize that by not registering with the Selective Service, I am made ineligible for any federal money from student loans or grant programs.

I have made this decision because

**"selective service has selected you"**

**to feed the war machine**

my pacifist beliefs do not allow me to cooperate with the US military on any level. I am a conscientious objector, and I see the right to be exempt from registering for the military as being a right that all conscientious objectors should have. My not registering is one more way of telling the government and the military that I don't agree with what they are doing. Nobody should be punished for their nonviolent morals.

Another reason that I did not register is the classism that the Selective Service Act is based on. Non-registrants that come from upper-middle class or rich families are not affected by the Act. Their families have the ability to pay for their education without federal financial aid. Non-registrants who come from lower-class, lower-middle class or middle-class families, who depend on federal financial aid, are denied the federal aid that they need to get a higher education. Lower-income non-registrants should have just as much of a right to go to college as everybody else. Instead, we are punished for

having a conscience that does not support murder.

I also object to Selective Service Registration due to the sexist nature of requiring only men to register. However, I don't think that women should be in the military, or homosexuals, but I don't think that straight men should be either.

I have given you some reasons why I have not registered with the Selective Service, but I have not explained my core reason, yet. I don't believe in violence. I don't believe that it does anything but harm. I refuse to support it in any way. I would not and could not kill another person. This is the criteria for what makes a person a conscientious objector. This is a

bogus criteria, though. As it is, the military has to brainwash people in order to make them kill. Most would never do it under sane conditions. The US is the largest arms dealer in the world. The US sells more weapons to human rights abusers than any other country. The US bombs the people of Iraq and Serbia, the US practices that bombing on the island of Vieques, and the US trains assassins at the School of the Americas. I refuse to support this.

I gave proof of my deep commitment to nonviolence in my applications to both Earlham College and the Bonner Scholarship Program. In those applications, I gave lists highlighting my nonviolent activism and my organizing of nonviolent actions. Recently I received letters of acceptance from Earlham and from the Bonner Scholarship Program. Unfortunately, without replacement of Federal grants and loans, my family does not have the ability to pay for college.

**continued on page 38**

## The Man Behind the Window

What a joyous day to turn eighteen  
to vote to gamble and smoke  
to wait in line  
what a marvelous line  
oh indeed what swell line it is

At the end of the line there is a list  
Which perhaps i would rather  
not belong to  
Oh but don't be a fool  
It's just an agreement  
By which you can vote and they can call  
you.

They can call upon you at any time  
Any time, any time, any time at all  
And, oh, well they only tell you to kill  
But they won't -- don't worry  
Don't be foolish  
You never know when your country needs  
you  
To Kill

Perhaps i might help another way?  
You are welcome to, but you still must  
Kill kill kill kill kill

The line gets shorter and  
I come to the window  
There's a man, red with black hair  
Piercing eyes and a jackal's smile  
hair on his chin  
hair on his tongue  
pointy ears  
horns on his forehead  
And that ridiculous hat of red white and  
blue

You don't sign, well you go to jail.  
So Uncle Lucifer leaves me no choice?  
I suppose i must sign  
I suppose i must do the Devil right  
I must be a patriot  
Say the pledge and kill on demand.  
Then, i can enjoy my rights as a free  
american  
a free man

Until He comes on his  
Dark Steed to ride me  
Away into the dark

**-By Alexander Cote**

# Who wage-slaved for your lunch today?

Criminals/Colors in Action (CiA) is people of color coalition at University of California/Santa Cruz that works in the movement against the color of violence, especially in the prison industrial complex.

**In this twisted system** of oppression it is clear that all our lives are interwoven as racism, sexism, homophobia, classism and neo-colonialism prevail in the corruption of capitalist industrialism. Money fuels the systematic takeover as people are mentally and physically abused and enslaved. The abolition of slavery in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution served as nothing more than the legal changing definition of what slavery can entail. Today, slavery exists in virtually every business, especially in the industry of criminalizing poor people who are, largely, people of color.

The reality of racial profiling prevails in new forms. Malcolm X once said, **"Racism is like a Cadillac, they make a new model every year."** One thing that remains the same throughout the changing models is that people of color are still criminalized for simply being people of color. This is obvious when looking at the prison population in the US.

Blacks and Latinos make up the largest and fastest growing population in prisons, although the crimes which they commit, such as drug offenses and rapes, are committed at higher rates by white people. Black and Latina women are increasingly incarcerated at higher rates than men for offenses such as possession of a controlled substance or self-defense.

Native American Indians and Hawaiians, the indigenous people under US colonial jurisdiction, have the highest percentage rates of their population incarcerated while Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) detainees represent the fastest growing segment of the US jail population, even though they are NOT SERVING CRIMINAL SENTENCES.

Furthermore, when undocumented and documented immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers are caught by the INS for non-violent offenses, they are imprisoned in INS detention centers, many of which are controlled by private corporations such as Corrections Corporation of America, before they are deported out of the country. Many of the people contained in INS prisons and US county jails are Haitians, Cubans, Cambodians, Sri Lankans, Philippinos, Chinese and people from all over South America.

Private corporations which have contracts with the government fiend for the opportunity to make massive amounts of money off innocent people whose only crime is struggling to survive in a greedy capitalist global economy. Prisoners are leased to work for companies like Chevron, TWA, Victoria's Secret and Prison Blue Jeans while being paid slave wages. Prisons have even started charging prisoners for room and board, as if they were some kind of hospitable five-star hotel.

At the University of California/Santa Cruz, we are mobilizing against the largest private prison corporation in the world, the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). Diverse communities which have been historically isolated from each other are coming together to build a powerful, forceful movement which will terminate the contract with our food service provider, Marriott-Sodexho Food Services (MSFS) and the university.

MSFS is the largest investor in the Corrections Corporation of America, holding 16.9% in CCA's stocks. Additionally, Sodexho Alliance, the company that controls MSFS, owns 11% of a company called Prison Realty Trust (PRT). CCA and PRT operate as a joint enterprise. CCA operates the vast majority of PRT's facilities and generates the bulk of PRT's income.

Operating facilities in 26 American states, Puerto Rico, Great Britain and Australia, CCA manages 82 prisons with 73,000 beds. In the first three

quarters of 1999 alone, the company's profits amounted to \$365 million. In addition, Sodexho Alliance holds \$4.5 billion annual contracts with universities, hospitals and corporations providing food, custodial, concession and consulting services.



Contributing to the annual income, students at UCSC are forced to buy food from our only food service provider, MSFS. This means that because people must eat, we are forced to invest MILLIONS of dollars into the private prison industry.

As people who are not currently subject to unjust incarceration, we are in a position of privilege. With this privilege comes the responsibility to end the cycle and resist corporate interest which funds a criminal system of unjust incarceration. Moreover, as people of color who emerge from communities that are subject to racial profiling and unjust prison sentencing, we refuse to be forced investors in the industry that criminalizes our own people.

A series of actions and events are planned to mobilize a mass movement of people as we confront the administration at UCSC so that it is clear that we will not be coerced into investing in a system which serves the purpose of framing innocent people, for the sake of cheap labor, and for a greedy profit industry that traps people of color in a system of criminalization.

Contact Colors in Action at  
[colorsinaction@hotmail.com](mailto:colorsinaction@hotmail.com).

Be all that you can be...  
In this army of hypocrisy  
With policies like  
Shoot before they-  
Don't ask don't tell-  
About the whites of their eyes  
And their lies.  
Do all that you can do...  
To disrupt this institutionality,  
Where nations are built on the backs of slaves  
And children are the fuel the furnaces crave.  
Sitting in the crotch of the lap of luxury,  
Blind to human reality,  
But actually  
Our bodies are on loan to us  
And any day now this country may reclaim us.

From San Juan Hills to the deserts of the Gulf,  
Anything south of the Canadian border is  
And always will be  
The Deep South.  
Malcolm got a bullet  
in the chest for speaking that truth.  
Martin could march all he liked  
But a word about the strife in Vietnam  
And they brought him down.  
Even buried in the ground  
He was dangerous enough to be watched by the  
Cia-fbi-cointelpro-star wars cameras in the sky.

Unheeding the reality  
of a world constantly at war with us,  
We regurgitate and perpetrate a war  
Colder than an atom's exploding force,  
And with flags waving,  
We become the fodder,  
Making the steel hotter,  
Making our chains stronger.  
Cannon balls and human walls used to  
Subjugate prostrate eliminate  
Dreams of freedom on a global scale  
And beside this madness other atrocities pale.

The availability of war  
Depends only on our ability to ignore  
The sound of  
Bombs dropping bombs dropping bombs  
Never stopping.  
The scent of zyklon b  
Mixed with agent orange  
Creates a mixture that blurs the picture,  
The texture numbs my lips and tongue  
But if I remain silent,  
The smell of burning homes, burning bones  
Will choke the stars and stripes right outta me.

# WAR IS PEACE

"Ask not what your country can do for you"  
Ask what you can do TO your country.  
Non stop interruption  
Grand scale disruption  
Of this business-as-usual corruption,  
And in the back,  
The percussion of jungle beats  
Mau Mau attacks,  
More dangerous than M-16s or multi-terrain tanks  
Or mind-splitting phrases like friendly fire  
And with every shot the death toll grows higher.  
Bald eagle spits out peace speeches  
from white house bleachers  
But the machete in his claw speaks his true name.  
Supplying guns to friends  
But when an enemy is necessary,  
Uncle Tom nations become the emissaries of Satan.  
Iraq drowns in a sea of oil  
And Saddam's evil is foiled but never mention...  
We supplied the armory  
that attacked Kuwaiti nationality.  
And I will volunteer my services to the Viet-Cong,  
While others continue singing freedom songs.  
"We shall overcome some day"  
but not today  
and I will do more than overcome,  
I shall come over to find a way  
Or make one  
Through the fallen soldiers  
Masked as forgiving children,  
Collapsed on scorched earth  
But rebels continue to give birth  
And I am still born inception on the battered rubble of  
Yugoslavia to Rwanda and back again.  
Never on our knees  
Because this nation has heard  
the pleas of a generation  
Of a nation  
And the only reply was the  
continuation duration of the cluster bomb.  
So now I am the firepower  
Shooting back at this rogue superpower.  
Will it take an atom bomb in Washington  
Or land mines in the midwestern countryside  
To address this unrest,  
To stop the bombs dropping bombs dropping  
dropping bombs  
never stopping.

-by Walidah Imarisha

# ROCKS VERSUS TANKS: AN ESSAY ON PALESTINE

On Sept. 30 of this past year, French Television exposed the brutal homicide of a 12-year-old Palestinian boy, Mohammed al-Durah. The events leading to his death and the human degradation it stems from would give way to a new movement of Palestinian youth resistance (Intifada) and beg the question of the meaning of peace.

The Al-Aqsa intifada, as it is being called, began before the murder of Mohammed. Two days prior, Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, authorized an ambush under the auspices of Ariel Sharon, a symbol of Israeli state terror. Sharon, along with 1,000 armed police, stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque. According to Sharon, the expressed purpose of the visit was to remind Palestinians of "Jewish sovereignty" over Muslim religious sites in Jerusalem. The following day, during Friday Muslim prayers, with the word from Barak, and the blessing of the Clinton regime, Israeli riot police once again struck a packed Al-Aqsa, opening fire on the 20,000 worshippers.

In following days and weeks, over 200 Palestinians were killed and thousands wounded. According to a Human Rights team of American doctors, more than 1,000 Palestinians would suffer from permanent disability as a result of Israeli excessive force.

Among those murdered we did not see were: Isam Hamed, a farmer who was abducted by Jewish settlers and burned



to death; Sami Abu Jazar, a 12-year-old school boy shot in the head by an Israeli soldier; Wael Imad el Nasheat, 14-year-old boy, shot in the head by an Israeli soldier; Moayad Jawaressh, 14-year-old boy, shot in the head by Israeli soldiers, who opened fire on a bunch of school children walking home from school.

Having crafted the stage for a seemingly "age-old religious" conflict, Israeli officials began crying violence and threatening to end talks until Palestinians ceased their rampage on innocent Israeli soldiers. "Ending talks" is code for further implementing mapping adjustments to fit Israeli hegemony and complete dominion over the Palestinian occupied territories.

Current negotiations focus on administering sub-divisions in the West Bank and Gaza, while isolating Palestinians from Jerusalem (all of which are considered the "occupied territories"). These

regions would be divided, with the majority of resource rich portions (water, arable land) going to Israel.

East Jerusalem, which is the social and economic center of Palestinian life would be inaccessible to Palestinians in other parts of this newly fabricated Palestine.

Meanwhile, Jewish settlements continue to be built over razed Palestinian homes. Israeli settlers enjoy full mobility in all parts of occupied Palestine and are fully exempt from restrictions placed on Palestinians.

The new aggravated domestic war waged by Israel stems from a lack of docility on the part of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to facilitate this peace process. What is particularly noteworthy about this reluctance is that the PA was created in collusion with US/Israel to function as Israel's Palestinian policing agency. The PA's rejection of the "peace" proposal underlines the flagrancy of the utter dehumanization of Palestinian people being called for.

The facade of conflict is what is indeed the peace process as US/Israel envisions. The rock-throwing response by Palestinian youth to Israeli terrorism, becomes the highlighted US/Israel wagging finger, stating: see you can't negotiate with these terrorists; you just have to nuke them. And that is essentially what is being done. The current violence is the US/Israel version of implementing peace.

--tony starks

# Stand Firm:

## AWOL interviews Michael Franti of Spearhead



**AWOL:** Peace, you've been doing a great deal of traveling over the past year. During that time we've experienced the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, as well as the WTO and World Bank protests. Give us your "State of Babylon" report to date.

**Michael Franti:** Well, the thing that I'm finding is that there are more and more people who are feeling the effects of the

system, and that the myth of the Clinton economic miracle was exactly that. For 80% of the population, our living standards have either stayed the same or declined over the past eight years of the Clinton administration.

And now we're heading into the Bush era and things appear so unstable that people have a lot of fear.

People are realizing that the corporate control of this country, of this world is what is causing a lot of people to suffer in a lot of different ways. Be it the prison industrial complex, the lack of housing, terrible education systems, people are now starting to say, "We're tired of this, and we're gonna begin to stand up and fight it on different levels, whether it's at the DNC, the RNC, the WTO, or the World Bank, or whatever it is." People are willing to come out in the streets more now than we've seen in a long time.

**AWOL:** With the election of Bush, there are primarily two schools of thought among activists and conscious people. There are those who see little more than impending doom and despair. On the other hand, there are those who see the doom and despair, but feel that actually "seeing the beast" will inspire people to rise up with greater urgency. What do you think of this?

**Michael Franti:** Well, in his acceptance speech Bush threw out two words a lot that really resonated with me. The first one was "citizen," that we all need to become better citizens, great citizens.

I personally have never felt like I was included within the citizenry of this country. In his own state of Texas, a lot of the work force and labor forces are not citizens. They are people who have just come across the border. So he is drawing a very distinct line. He is saying that there are certain people that belong, and that are "us," and that we can do things together. But for most of us, we feel like we are outside of that citizenry, that "us," and it's more about that "them."

The other word that he said a lot was unity. And he kept using unity in terms of republicans and democrats coming together and unifying. Again, for most of us, we haven't felt like we're either, be it republicans or democrats. We don't feel like we've been treated with



continued on page 44

# YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH

## REAL-LIFE MILITARY RECRUITERS SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS

"Yes, in fact there are a lot, a **whole lot of recruiters that do lie**. They lie so much I want to strangle them. They give recruiters a really bad name for the rest of us."

"It's sad enough that we have organizations like yours that **preach peace but never want to fight** for it."

"I hope you enjoy the freedom that I and many others provide for you so you can continue to preach about your loving and peaceful life. **I just pray to God that your family and friends never need any protection from you.**"

"I was not only a recruiter.. I was the best. **I could sell any one at any time**. Talk about a shipper that did not want to go, not a problem, send in the master closer."

"The DEP, they don't have to do anything at all... Nothing at all in the world you can ever do about it. Just report a no show shipper is all. The only thing the young woman or man would get is a DEP separation letter from the appropriate commander."

**"A recruiter's worst fear is that they find out that they [DEPers] really don't have to go....** The chain of command is then all over you because if you lose this year's shippers, it has ruined the high school program for the next year. A good recruiter will target those propended to enlist and have such an aggressive DEP manage-

ment program so as to not allow them any contact with the rest of the student population."

**"YOU must get the correct amount of the market share or you will suffer the beatings."**

"I was able to get out of the Navy quite easily, but then I'm the exception, not the rule. An unrelated psychological examination determined that I am suffering from a clinically significant strain of bi-polar disorder. I exaggerated the details of my condition to my recruiter and he hastily began the paperwork that led to my discharge."

**"I can not stress the importance of playing up on even the most minor "psychological disorder"** when attempting to get out of the service."

"On phone prospecting by recruiters, keep lists given by high schools (required by the Solomon Act), these lists are kept for three years. Simply asking them not to call you serves no purpose. **Kids should just tell the recruiters they have asthma, diabetes, heart murmurs, etc.**"

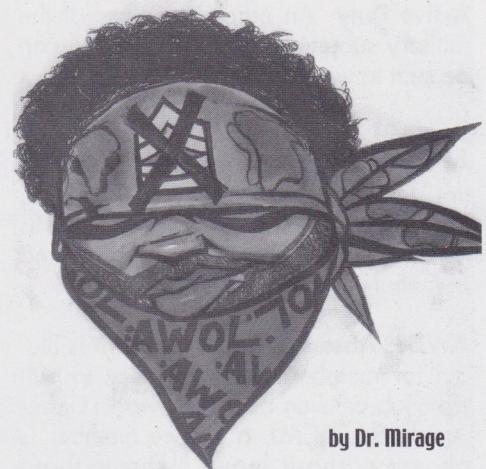
"On the ASVAB registration form is **OPTION 8**, which prevents the name and address of high school students from being released to recruiters."

**"Recruiters are highly trained in sales techniques**, including verbal and nonverbal communications (body language). Even a wallflower like me can outsell the best of used car salesmen. Most service recruiters would agree that the Marines are most persistent and tenacious. Air Force recruiters have so many walk-ins,

Could you take the life of someone you love/or have feelings for in necessary?

I got cousins in the military/but as far as I'm concerned/They died when they registered.

- Dead Prez, We Want Freedom



by Dr. Mirage

they do not have to recruit at all."

**"It is against Army regulations to threaten a DEP with jail or with the law in order to ship.** Once a kid swears in for the second time, he is now on Active Duty and subject to UCMJ."

**"Any discharge, if it is not Honorable, will hinder the kid in future civilian employment,** most civilian human resources have the separation codes on hand."

**"It is very easy to get out of the Delayed Entry Program.** Simply put 'Don't Ship.' Don't leave on the ship date. Nothing is effected for future employment."

**"The recruiters always want a Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander,** high school grad, that can go into a critical program, and a ship in a month (before they can have second thoughts)."

**"The sales tactics used are simple.** All a recruiter gets is the want, need and DBM (dominate buying motive, the emotional reason a person buys) and uses bridges such as: 'What do you feel you need to get what you want out of life?'"

**"I'm an ex-navy recruiter currently on active duty. I'm tired of the military B.S.** and can't wait until I am able to leave and get a real job."

Check out the AWOL glossary on page 36.

# WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

## AWOL GLOSSARY TO UNDERSTANDING MILITARY DOUBLESPEAK

**Active Duty**- An official member of the military subject to military law who can be sent to war at any time.

**ASVAB**- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, given to all potential recruits as a means of determining placement and eligibility. The ASVAB is given to high schools students to find potential recruits.

**AWOL- Absent Without Leave**- It is illegal for members of the military to quit their job or even be late to work. Under Article 86, UCMJ, a service member is absent without leave "who without authority fails to go to their appointed place of duty at the time prescribed; goes from that place; or absents themselves or remains absent from their unit, organization or place of duty at which they are required to be at the time prescribed."

**BCD- Bad Conduct Discharge**- Result of a court martial and a felony equivalent.

**Brig**- Term used by the Navy and Marines for jail.

**CO**- Commanding Officer or Conscientious Objector.

**Conscientious Objection**- A firm, fixed and sincere objection to participation in any war, based on strongly held religious, moral or ethical beliefs.

**Court Martial**- Military trial intended to deliver "a swift lesson that will serve as a message to others about to fall off the precipice of good order and discipline." The commander who brings the charges also picks the jury.

**DD- Dishonorable Discharge**- Result of a court martial and a felony equivalent.

**DEP**- Delayed Entry/Enlistment program. Recruits can sign up and delay their enlistment or report date for up to one year.

**DEPer**- DEP candidates are commonly referred to among military personnel as "Deppers" or "Shippers".

**ELS- Entry level Separation**- Discharge in the first 180 days of service.

**MEPS- Military Entrance Processing Station**- the place where recruits are given physical examinations and the oath of enlistment is administered.

**Military Service Obligation**- Upon enlisting in the armed forces, enlisted members are obligated to serve eight years in a combination of active and reserve duty.

**Missing Movement**- A service member "who through neglect or design misses the movement of a ship, aircraft or unit

with which they are required in the course of duty to move" may be charged with missing movement under Article 87, UCMJ.

**MOS- Military Occupational Specialty**- Many military jobs sound fancy, for instance a "combat engineer" is just another word for infantry.

**MP**- Military Police.

**Nonjudicial Punishment**- A commander acts as judge and jury for offenses not serious enough for court-martial. Punishments include fines, extra duty and confinement with only bread and water.

**OPTION 8**- Mark this on your ASVAB and the results will not be available for recruiters.

**OTH- Other Than Honorable Discharge**- A discharge with no benefits and a lifetime of problems getting civilian jobs.

**DD 214**- Discharge certificate. A life-long record of military service. A bad discharge can lead to a hard time getting civilian jobs.

**Solomon Act**- Laws which deny federal financial aid, job training and federal jobs to any American male who refuses to register for the draft.

**TDY**- Temporary Duty.

**UA**- Unauthorized absence, the Navy and Marine Corps term for AWOL.

**UCMJ-Uniform Code of Military Justice**- A Congressional statute with 139 articles that establishes the unique code of laws for members of the military. You think civilian law sucks, wait till you are subject to UCMJ! You can get a death sentence for quitting your job. Members of the military can also be put in jail for failure to obey an order, or disrespecting a superior, making disloyal statements or having sex.

**USAREC**- United States Army Recruiting Command.

## BOMBS OVER EL BARRIO

bombs over body bag-dad, borinquen and el barrio  
bathed in an rotc raytheon radioactive rio sumpul combat contra  
counter-revolution, constitution, pollution, retribution glow gung ho  
ghetto gulf Grenada invaders instigators go raiders now is laters  
spoils of war blood for oil dead youth proof yankee truth injust-us and the  
school of the amerikan way, decay yesterday is todays  
nepalm Nagasaki news reports sports fighting for the amerikan dream  
cream m16 another nazi scheme sandinista soldier spic ku klux klan hiroshima  
hola-caust hand to hand panamanian strong man death don't give a damn who I  
am mother, fodder daughter dollar, make me wanna holler desert storm before  
the calm what ever can will go wrong survival of the strong drop the bomb  
uncle sam and uncle tom and Vieques equals Viet Nam

by Not4Prophet from Ricanstruction

# THE SECURITY REGULATIONS

1. YOU MUST ANSWER ACCORDINGLY TO MY QUESTIONS \_ DON'T TURN THEM AWAY
2. DON'T TRY TO HIDE THE FACTS BY MAKING PRETEXTS THIS AND THAT. YOU ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED TO CONTEST ME .
3. DON'T BE A FOOL FOR YOU ARE A CHAP WHO DARE TO THWART THE REVOLUTION .
4. YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY ANSWER MY QUESTIONS WITHOUT WASTING TIME TO REFLECT .
5. DON'T TELL ME EITHER ABOUT YOUR IMMORALITIES OR THE ESSENCE OF THE REVOLUTION .
6. WHILE GETTING LASHES OR ELECTRIFICATION YOU MUST NOT CRY AT ALL .
7. DO NOTHING, SIT STILL AND WAIT FOR MY ORDERS. IF THERE IS NO ORDER, KEEP QUIET .  
WHEN I ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING, YOU MUST DO IT RIGHT AWAY WITHOUT PROTESTING .
8. DON'T MAKE PRETEXTS ABOUT KAMPUCHEA KROM IN ORDER TO HIDE YOUR JAW OF TRAITOR .
9. IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW ALL THE ABOVE RULES, YOU SHALL GET MANY MANY LASHES OF ELECTRIC WIRE .
10. IF YOU DISOBEDIANCE ANY POINT OF MY REGULATIONS YOU SHALL GET EITHER TEN LASHES OR FIVE SHOCKS OF ELECTRIC DISCHARGE .

Sign to the entrance of a prison in Cambodia.

POEM  
continued from  
page 27

and favoring all flights of fancy  
I reach the highest heights (with or without weed)  
simply by being me  
My heart beats creativity

Pumping life into visions of utopia  
Correcting the fearful lens of myopia  
That refuses to believe what it sees-

God is We  
God is Me  
Goddess Me

I am a Revolution  
Revolving and evolving  
Like the seasons and the sun  
I am the Light shining forth and Its Source  
Don't need to be with  
Shit, I AM the Force  
In the A.M. I force my eyes open  
The masses have awoken and risen  
I crumble the tyranny

Of my self-deprecating despotism  
I will not see with victim's eyes, my Self  
For I AM  
Continuously creating what I choose  
New Worlds in the making as I tie my shoes  
Cuz I Am.

The Revolution I've been waiting for  
Gil said it wouldn't be televised  
It's all happening in my Mind's Eye, III  
Through the power of the Word  
Speaking revelations as yet unlearned:

I am.  
I am Love.  
I am Beautiful.  
I am the struggle and the solution.  
I am the Revolution.  
I Am.  
I AM-The Revolution.

- Andrea Atsuko Dunham is a member of the Blackout Arts Collective.

# Angels of the Bread

This is the year that squatters evict landlords, gazing like admirals from the rail of the roofdeck or levitating hands in praise of steam in the shower; this is the year that shawled refugees deport judges who stare at the floor and their swollen feet as files are stamped with their destination; this is the year that police revolvers, stove-hot, blister the fingers of raging cops, and nightsticks splinter in their palms; this is the year that dark-skinned men lynched a century ago return to sip coffee quietly with the apologizing descendants of their executioners.

This is the year that those who swim the border's undertow and shiver in boxcars are greeted with trumpets and drums at the first railroad crossing on the other side; this is the year that the hands pulling tomatoes from the vine uproot the deed to the earth that sprouts the vine, the hands canning tomatoes are named in the will that owns the bedlam of the cannery; this is the year that the eyes stinging from the poison that purifies toilets awaken at last to the sight of rooster-loud hillside, pilgrimage of immigrant birth; this is the year that cockroaches become extinct, that no doctor finds a roach embedded in the ear of an infant; this is the year that the food stamps of adolescent mothers



by King Now

are auctioned like gold dubloons, and no coin is given to buy machetes for the next bouquet of severed heads in coffee plantation country.

If the abolition of slave-manacles began as a vision of hands without manacles, then this is the year; if the shutdown of extermination camps began as imagination of a land without barbed wire or the crematorium, then this is the year; if every rebellion begins with the idea that conquerors on horseback are not many-legged gods, that they too drown if plunged in the river, then this is the year.

So may every humiliated mouth, teeth like desecrated headstones, fill with the angels of bread.

-By Martin Espada

LETTER  
continued from  
page 30

One of the reasons that Earlham is my number one choice is that it seems to share my

pacifist beliefs and is a school that encourages non-violent activism and community service.

I hope that you are able to support my decision in whatever ways are possible, so I can attend Earlham next year as a Peace

Studies Major. Thank you. I look forward to visiting Earlham this coming weekend.

Sincerely,  
**Patrick Sheehan-Gaumer**

## Selective Service facts

If you're male and a US citizen, you're legally required to register with the Selective Service System (SSS), within 30 days before or 29 days after your 18th birthday. Most male US residents who aren't citizens are also required to register.

**Is a draft likely?** In a word, no. By targeting low-income youth with a high-pressure sales pitch and inflated promises, the military has kept up its supply of ground troops.

**But what if you choose not to register?**

- You're violating the law, although you're not likely to be prosecuted. Failure to register is a federal offense: if prosecuted and convicted, you could face up to five years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. No one has actually been formally charged since 1986, though you will receive letters informing you that your name will be turned over to the Department of Justice for possible prosecution.
- You become ineligible for federal aid. As the letter by Patrick on this page shows, conscientious objectors are ineligible for federal student aid, federal job training or civil service employment.
- Some resist by waiting until they're older. Legally, at any moment until your 26th birthday, Selective Service must accept your draft registration card. Some young men delay registration until they turn 21 (at which point the chances of being drafted are extremely slim). However, if you don't register before 26, you will not be allowed to register.

**So how do you prove you're a conscientious objector (CO)?** Write at the bottom of the registration card, "I am a conscientious objector." Photocopy the actual card a few times and mail it to both to SS and yourself. That will be your record.

Of course if you have to prove a CO claim to a draft board, you will need more. Letters from teachers, friends, religious leaders who can attest to your sincerity of your convictions, can be used as evidence.

Contact CCCO for more information: 1-800-NO-JROTC, awol@objector.org or objector.org/conscription/draft-registration.html.

# DEAD PREZ HAS GONE AWOL... SO SHOULD YOU!

*"The presence of the police and military in our educational process represents a hostile environment that our children are miseducated in." - M-1*

In terms of militant, revolutionary music, one group figures prominently in today's genre of hip hop: dead prez.

dead prez has gone AWOL against corporate-generated rap, thug-inspired exploitative, misogynist, booty-shaking radio noise.

Their critically acclaimed album Let's Get Free continues the legacy of revolutionaries of yester-year X-Clan, Public Enemy, Boogie Down Productions and Poor Righteous Teachers. It gives the streets a fresh new soundtrack to riot to, while enjoying the warmth of Babylon burning.

At a time when most rap groups accost

the stage with strip club dancers and Rolex watches, tossing money out to the audience like it was bread-crumbs, dead prez represents the antithesis, attacking the stage with red, black and green flags, burning dollar bills.

Dead Prez is like a fresh vegetable juice in the face of mainstream pork chop and ham hocks.

Dead prez is a fist in the face of conformity, they are a middle finger raised in defiance to the u.s. flag that conscripts poor youth of color through lies to fight capitalistic wars on brown babies.



Join dead prez in the ranks of those gone AWOL! Pop in the AWOL cd, skip to track #10 and let M-1 and Stic man tell you about *Cop Shot*, and if you haven't picked it up yet, go out and get the dead prez cd *Let's Get Free* and let the reconstruction begin.

## GO AWOL!

## SUBSCRIBE AND SUPPORT RESISTANCE!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

• I want to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies of AWOL at \$5 each plus \$2 shipping and handling  
(order 10 or more copies, and pay no shipping and handling)  
You can also order online at [awol.objector.org](http://awol.objector.org)

• I want be more involved with AWOL! Here's what I can do:

\_\_\_\_\_

Look for the next AWOL coming in Summer 2001!

Check out the website: [awol.objector.org](http://awol.objector.org)

ing  
a n  
addi-  
tional

\$52,000

from the ARMY.

The total amount of blood money *The Source Magazine* received from the military in the years 1999-2000 at least totals \$234,000!!! One ad away from a quarter of a million dollars!!! Chump change when you see that the Navy's advertising budget for 2001 is \$74.5 million dollars, \$2.6 million more than they had for 2000.

In the same issues that advertise for the US military, *The Source* has pseudo-political articles criticizing the international web of control that the United States military enjoys: "When and Where We Enter" (July '99); "Juvenile Hell" (November '99) and "Unusual Suspects" (April '00).

The crowning touch is the January 2001 issue... Yes, *The Source* has actually done a story on the struggle in Vieques and the Stop the Bombs hip hop benefit concerts that have been happening. How are they gonna advertise for the Navy and then do a story supporting the struggle against the Navy? How can David Mays, the "owner" of *The Source*, tell the hip hop community at a recent Hip Hop Summit to take on more social responsibility when he runs a magazine that takes no

responsibility for their advertising?

The military can afford to advertise on every page of *The Source Magazine* if they wanted to. The US Navy is bombing Vieques, and Puerto Rican people have contributed to the growth and development of hip hop culture from day one and they are facing GENOCIDE at the hands of the US Navy. *The Source Magazine* proclaims itself to be "the magazine of hip hop culture and politics," but supporting GENOCIDE is not my culture and it is not my politics.

US NAVY OUT OF VIEQUES!! US NAVY OUT OF THE SOURCE!!!

**articles and photos by Kevin Ramirez**- Military Out of Our Schools Coordinator with CCCO.

are forever indelibly etched into our collective psyche.

And Brothers like Willie Sneed, a cool down home Southern boy - who feeds the birds on Death Row.

For discussion about birds, or any subject of interest to humans, write to:  
Willie Sneed #DZ2440  
SCI-Greene/175 Progress Drive  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

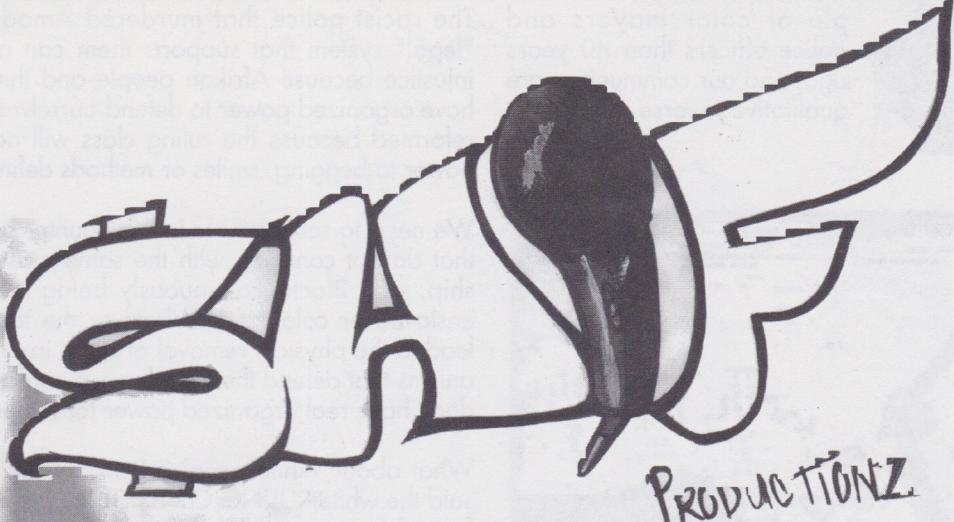
*Reginald Sinclair Lewis is the author of Leaving Death Row, a new collection of poems available from <http://www.1stbooks.com> or 1-800-839-8640.*



National Day of Solidarity with the Peoples of Vieques March at the White House Sept. 22, 2000

The essential act of war is destruction, not necessarily of human lives, but of the products of human labor. War is a way of shattering to pieces, or pouring into the stratosphere, or sinking in the depths of sea, materials which might otherwise be used to make the masses too comfortable, and hence, in the long run, too intelligent. Even when weapons of war are not actually destroyed, their manufacture is still a convenient way of expending labor power without producing anything that can be consumed.

--George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four



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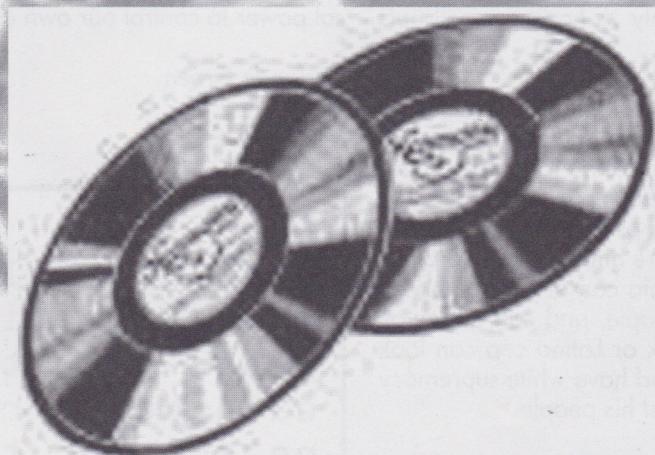
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DIALLO  
continued from  
page 26

ple of color mayors and police officers than 40 years ago, and our communities are qualitatively worse.

The racist police that murdered Amadou Diallo and the "legal" system that supports them can only get away with injustice because Afrikan people and the oppressed do not have organized power to defend ourselves. Society cannot be reformed because the ruling class will not willingly give up power to begging, smiles or methods defined by them.



Kwame Nkrumah calls this phenomenon "neo-colonialism." Neo-colonialism exists to have the peoples' own face in seats of power in a system designed not to serve them, but to oppress them. This is why there is oppression and underdevelopment in Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean and Asia with black, brown and yellow faces in seats of power. The European colonizer would leave only to have our sell-outs take their place.

In America, we have domestic neo-colonialism. Black and Latino mayors, congressmen, college administrators, police officers and social workers only serve to confuse the oppressed masses on the role of the white capitalist state. This is why David Dinkins can put more cops on the street in New York City than any other mayor before him. This is why a Black Mayor, Wilson Goode, in Philadelphia can drop a bomb on the MOVE family, innocent Black people, and can get away with it. This is why an ignorant Black or Latino cop can look at his own community as criminals and have white supremacy in this country use his stupidity against his people.

Ultimately, the state is the organization of power for a few people to run our lives. What do we have to do? Organize our own. Power is the ability to carry out your communities' needs and wants without being oppressively dependent or having permission (as opposed to being independent or interdependent) from another body of people. This is the essence of SELF-DETERMINATION.

We need to seize power in this country by employing means that do not conclude with the same master / slave relationship, with Blacks continuously being synonymous with the enslaved or colonized. Whatever the tactics used, it has to lead to the physical removal of those in power and the mechanisms that defend them. Unless we can creatively do this, we don't have real organized power for the people.

What about White people? Do all white people rule? No. I said the white RULING CLASS. There is a difference. Billy Bob from the gas station down the road is not part of the ruling class in America. He does not decide anything in this country. He is a member of the exploited multiracial labor force in this country. His contradiction is that he can sometimes displace his bitterness towards his form of exploitation into forms of racism and a foundationless cultural thought and behavior of white supremacy that is based on nothing.

Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party always stressed that righteous white people have to organize their own people. We cannot organize white people who will not relate to us from Benson Hurst or Bay Ridge. Also, righteous whites cannot organize people of color because that is OUR responsibility. When they try to organize our communities, it does nothing save perpetuate that master/slave relationship, even when their intentions are correct.

People of color need to seek the answers to the questions of oppression particular to our diverse communities amongst ourselves. People of color in this country are not the only oppressed groups in the world; we have to seek alliances simultaneously with the other victims in the poor and oppressed world wide to actualize and realize people's political power to control our own destinies.

-Orlando Green

**When one falls, another must take his [or her] place, and the rage of each death renews the reason for the fight.**

-Che Guevara

BROWN FACES  
continued from  
page 17

challenged of the African, Latino, Native

American, Arab, and Asian/Pacific Islander communities simply because ours are the communities most vulnerable to Uncle Sam's misleading recruiting practices. A glaring example of the poverty draft at work is in the case of Puerto Rico. On the island, unemployment is 13.5%, more than double the

US national average of 5 percent, according to the National Center for Policy Analysis. In addition, wages and salaries are low: per capita income is \$8,000 annually, compared

to \$18,000 in the poorest state, Mississippi. Thus, it is far from coincidental that, according to Jane McHugh [Army Times, 6/21/99], "The San Juan and Aguadilla (recruiting) companies averaged nearly 900 Regular Army and Army Reserve recruits in 1998, and nearly 800 in 1997." To offer perspective, the average for the Army's other 240 recruiting companies was half of these totals! This situation in Puerto Rico is but one case of what is happening in Third World communities across the land.

Thus, CCCO's Third World Outreach program seeks to address the historical relationships between Third World people and militarism; establish community-wide dialogues on issues of military recruiting, militarism of public schools, and our rich tradition of resistance to militarism; to work in coalition with other national and local groups and organizers, and to organize, inform, and aid our communities in fighting the "economic conscription" of young people.

CCCO is working with other organizers of color, from War Resisters League, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pan African Student Youth Movement, American Friends Service Committee and Black Veterans for Social Justice, among others. We are beginning to establish a presence in public schools, at community forums and in people of color-owned and operated media sources (radio, magazines, newspapers, and journals) in order to contribute to an on-going forum on this very critical issue.



photo by Joey Thai

Never have a people struggled against the effects of militarism, both here and abroad, like Third World people. As Africans, Native Americans, Arabs, Latinos and Asian Pacific Islanders, we continue to resist the militarization of our daily lives. **We must proceed in this deep tradition of fighting off the forces that continually seek to rob our communities of our best and brightest youth**, feeding them to the brutality of war, the further loss of civil rights, and dead-end, low-paying jobs. It is our obligation to tell this story, the real story.

The military is conducting an expensive (\$2.1 billion worth), "no-holds-barred" campaign to convince inner-city youth that the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines are the only viable options for a successful future. Join us in telling our sisters and brothers, **"Don't Believe the Hype!"**

— Joey Thai

## Why does the Army want YOU?

Some people have the privilege of thinking of college after high school, but what about those who didn't do so well in school and are staring "no options" in the face, but are still looking for a new start? These are the types of students that military recruiters go in search of.

The military promises them training, education, money and travel. But at what price? The cost is their conscience. The truth that the military tries to hide but is blatantly obvious is that this training only prepares you for war, which is killing, and doesn't really benefit the recruit at all.

They aren't helping you keep your body fit so you can look good. They need your body to be strong in order for you to be able to run, dodge, or climb a tree when running away from a bullet. The technology you learn does not go towards learning html codes and building a business website. They go toward hacking into computers of foreign countries, or moving satellites to better approximate the landing of an atomic bomb.

Most recruits comfort themselves with the idea that war is an impossibility, or at least an improbability. The soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War never thought they'd see people dying, or bullets flying from east to west. The soldiers not involved in the killing fields didn't realize that the bombs they were dropping were landing on innocent people who did not have to do with government affairs.

If soldiers aren't the ones to declare war, why are they the ones sacrificing their lives, instead of those who are up in their big mansions?

Alex Martinez is a member of the Peace Club at Milby High School in Houston, Texas.

either party. To me, the word unity means that those of us who feel like we are on the outside, be it revolutionary, progressive, or just feeling left out, need to unify, to come together. We need to figure out strategies so that we can approach not only the next four years, but the next 20 years, the next 40 years.

I saw this election, not as, "Oh, let's all cry because we've gotta endure four years of Bush." In my opinion, the differences between democrats and republicans aren't that vast. I'm just looking at it like we've got to prepare for the long haul.

**AWOL:** What does the Bush administration mean to the prison/death row population?

**Michael Franti:** We now have a president that has executed more people on his clock than any president before him. I think that, ultimately, the more that the

respect by either party, or received the benefits of

death penalty is discussed and brought out into the open, the sooner it's gonna go away. I think that by the fact that we have a president now who has been so strongly in favor of the death penalty, he's gonna become a target on that. It's up to us to make him a target and hold this administration accountable for what goes on during their time clock.

**AWOL:** On your new album "Stay Human," part of the main focus, and a common theme, is that of the use of Pirate Radio. What do you feel is the potential power of People's Radio?

**Michael Franti:** It has the ability to communicate messages, ideas and music, and a sense of empowerment and pride to a portion of the community that doesn't ever get that. It targets a portion of the community that doesn't get their voice out there, doesn't have their ideas put across, does not have their music and their culture put across.

Community radio is more important than ever because there is so much corporate media out there whose sole interest is pacifying the public through entertainment and collecting dollars from advertisers.

**AWOL:** What would you say to youth of color who are being targeted and lured into the military?

**Michael Franti:** I would say, first of all, that I have respect for your situation. I understand what it's like when you're broke and don't have a lot of opportunities. You think, "Well, they're offering me 'x' amount of dollars to carry a gun around and keep their machinery running."

The only thing that I can say, is that the power of a government resides in its ability to kill. So, if that's the case, the power of the people has to reside in its ability to survive.

When we're signing up to become those killers, we have to think very carefully about what side we're gonna be on.

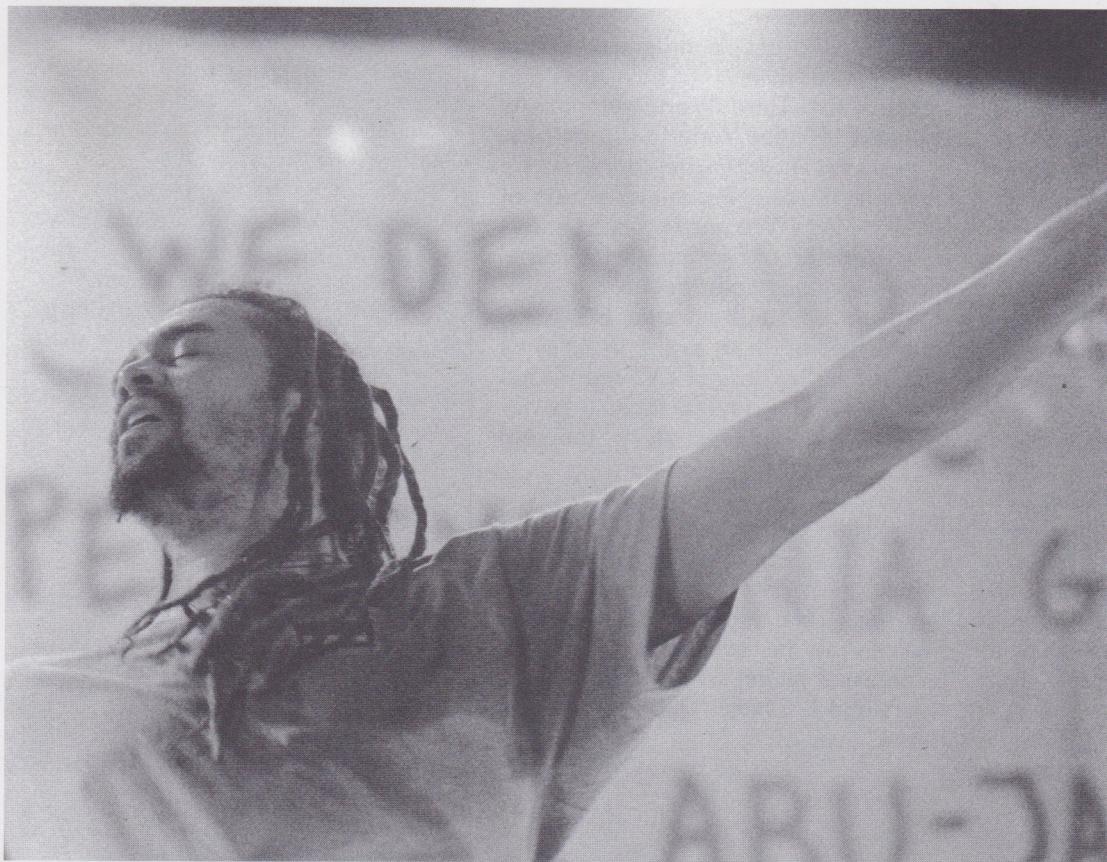
I believe we're going to be in another war during the next 18 months of this administration. It will be against people of color, and it will be against poor people.

You have to make a decision in your life beyond just your own pocket, and think of the larger picture. Sometimes it's hard and there aren't a lot of options, but we have to decide as people whether we're going to survive or become part of that killing machine.

**AWOL:** Tell us a little something about your label, "Boo Boo Wax."

**Michael Franti:** Boo Boo Wax is our label and the tag line for the label is "Conscious Music for the Masses." We're dedicated to spreading conscious music, party music.

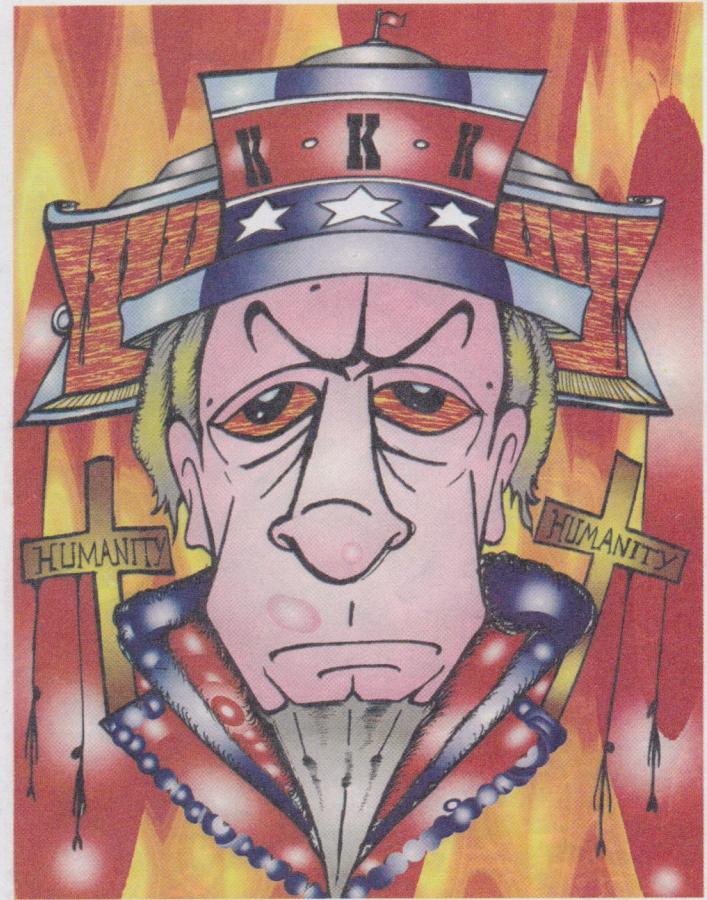
Music that people can move to and groove to, but that they can be inspired by to stay in the fight and to stay in the struggle.



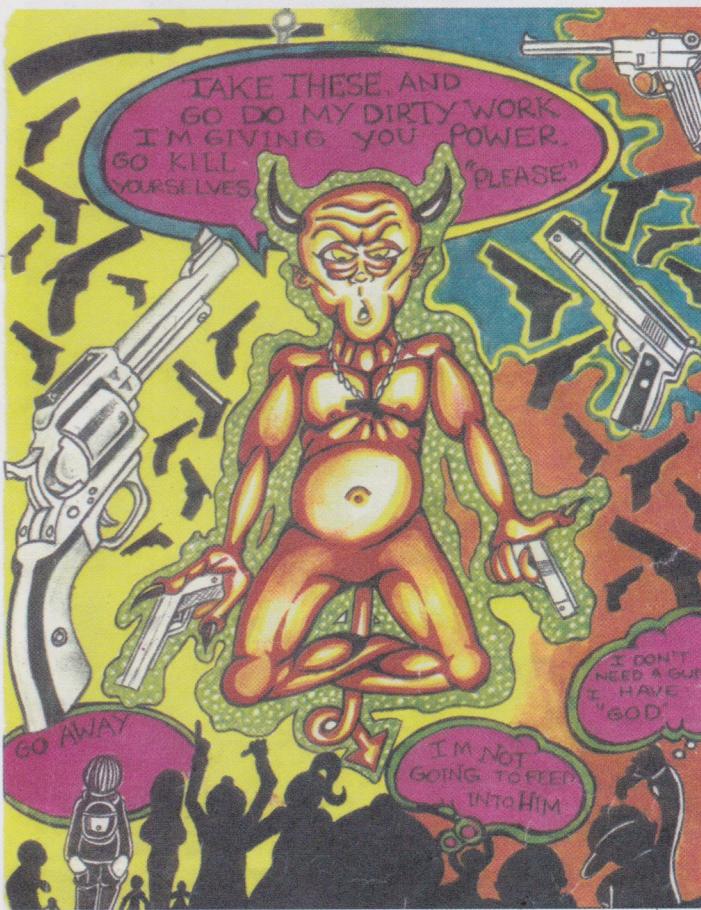
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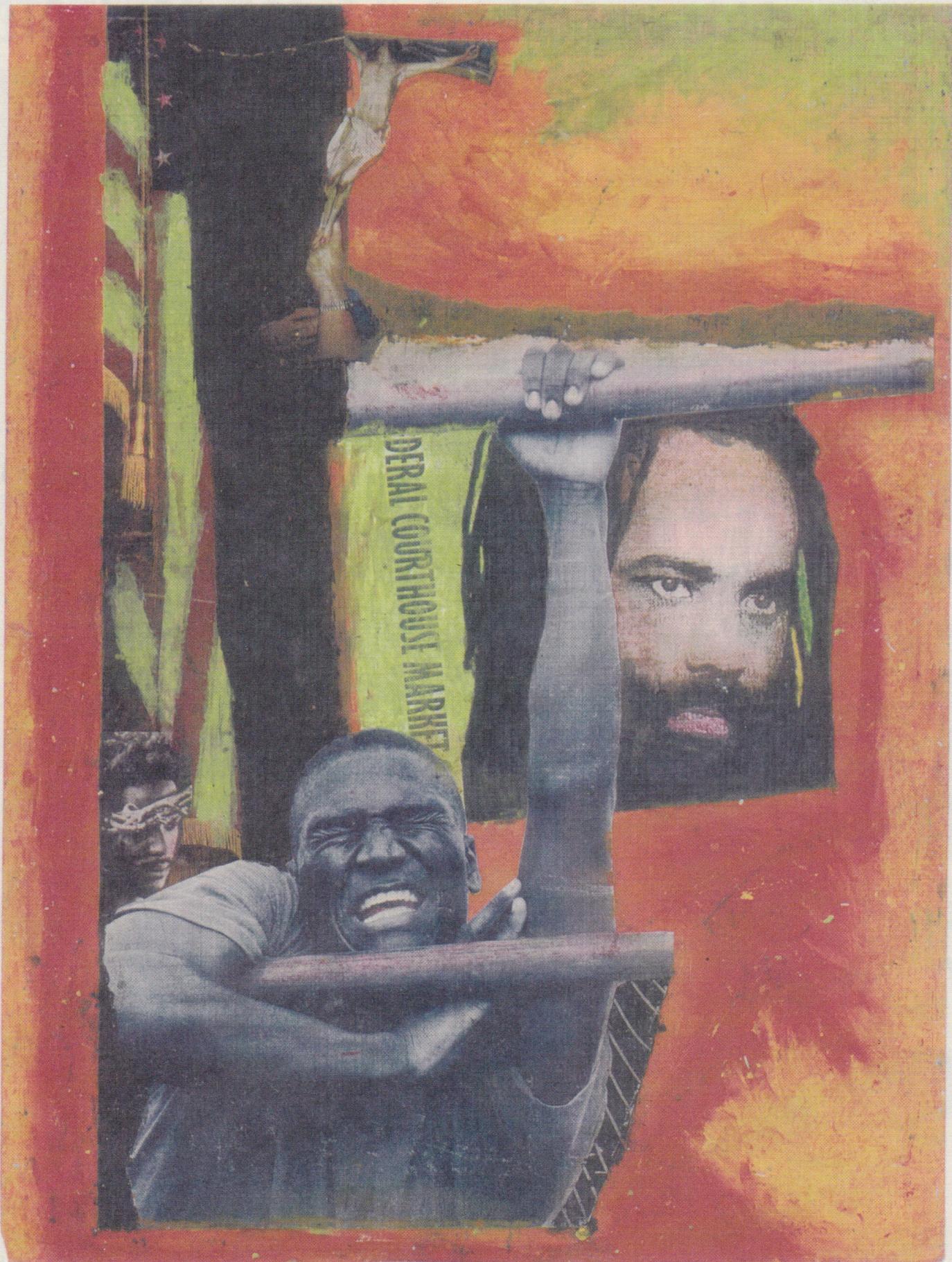
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art by Ricky Jason

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2000 Deral CourtHouse Market

Theodore A. Harris

SPIKE  
continued from  
page 10

willing to sacrifice his own, completely devoid of loyalty of any kind! Spike implies in this quote that "...some backward people..." have categorized him. This house negro refuses to realize that one cannot have it both ways: one cannot portray one's self as a freedom fighter, revolutionary and activist one moment, all the while sleeping with and serving the oppressor.

The Navy claims to be a source of financial aid for low income youth, advertising \$50,000 for college. Nowhere in Lee's ads is it pointed out that 57% of those who enroll in the GI Bill receive no educational benefits at all, and an additional 23% get only half of their benefits.

Spike likes to deal with issues of racism and discrimination in his big budget blockbuster films; why then doesn't he address issues of racism in the military? Lee makes no mention of the fact that people of color are twice as likely to receive dishonorable discharges than white people in the armed forces.

Opportunity is one of the themes of his Navy "joints." Why then is it not pointed out that Latinos make up only 3% of total officers, and Africans only 11%, while Whites comprise 81% of the officer pool? The military and its recruiters prey upon the economically challenged of the African, Latino, Native American, Asian, Arab and

Pacific Islander communities simply because ours are the communities most vulnerable to Uncle Sam's misleading recruiting practices.

In his ads, Spike uses footage of sailors returning home, studying, traveling, and even singing, rapping and dancing. Through all of this, he ignores another thing that sailors often do: die. An overwhelming 28% of the names on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC are Latino, and more recently, during Operation Desert Storm, over 50% of the front-line troops were people of color.

Quite simply, the armed forces targets people of color for recruitment disproportionately, thus we die in war disproportionately. Just this past October, over 47% of the sailors killed in the USS Cole bombing in the Sea of Yemen were Africans and Latinos between the ages of 19 and 32. Wonder if any of them saw Spike's ads?

Lee paints a happy-go-lucky fantasy world in which there is no allusion to another facet of navy reality: killing. Even former Secretary of Defense and current Vice President Dick Cheney admitted, "The reason to have a military is to be prepared to fight and win wars. That is our basic fundamental mission."

Spike, at his master's wishes, refuses to even acknowledge this. He instead chooses to "...show sailors in jazz and rock bands, portraying a creative and fun slice of Navy life" in his "Jamming Sailors" ad.

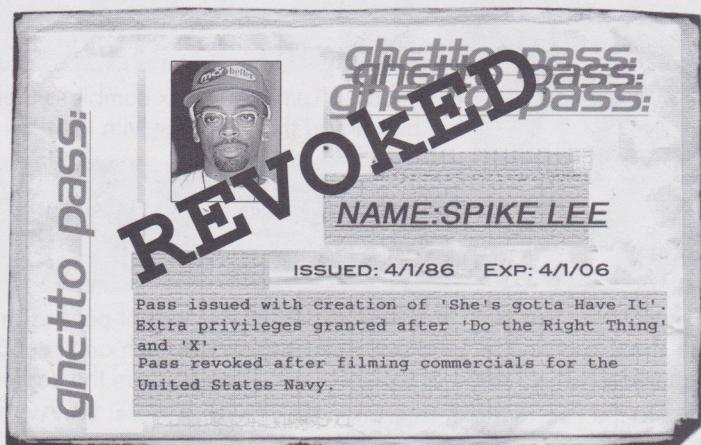
- Big Moon

**GHETTO PASS REVOKED**-- Spike, in light of your collusion with the Navy, and your obstinance to repentance, AWOL is revoking your ghetto pass!!!

Look in future AWOL for who else is getting their ghetto pass interrogated, confiscated and torn the fuck up for betraying the interests of the people they are supposedly representing.



by Theodore Harris



# AWOL ARTISTS ON THE FRONT LINES

## DA UNDA GROUND

Mo' deeper, mo' deafer, mo' in depth and mo' profound./No scenes from the main-stream, for this shit is strictly from the underground./The homeless of Chicago's lower wacker drive were forced to live in it./Some time ago Harriet Tubman utilized it, Assata was forced in it/And the Viet Cong hid in it/Where Mos Def, dead prez, the Coup and Common tapes can still be found./In this illustrious, beloved sacred covenant that we call the underground./Where archeologists in Egypt do their digs and miners in Southern Africa are forced to live./It's where in Chicago, Illinois, 1969, Spurgeon Jake Winters left two oncoming pigs./Where countless of cadavers of colonized casualties go unclaimed./And in New York, NY 1999, beneath big buildings,/ it's where they found old bones and slain remains./In Marion, Illinois, it's where many a political prisoner may be found,/Snatched from civilization, sensory deprivation with no communication,/24-7, non stop held undaground.

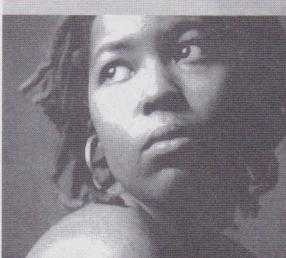
By Fred Hampton Jr./Alfred Johnson/B 42954/Joliet CC PO 515/Joliet IL 60432



C Rayz Walz is a Bronx-born hip hop artist. Check out the interview with C Rayz Walz on page 28.



Itai Doshin is an independent underground hip-hop group risen from Oakland, California, consisting of members Q-meija and Bas Invisible. The goal of their music is to educate and elevate the masses through positive beats and rhymes. [www.itaidoshin.com](http://www.itaidoshin.com)



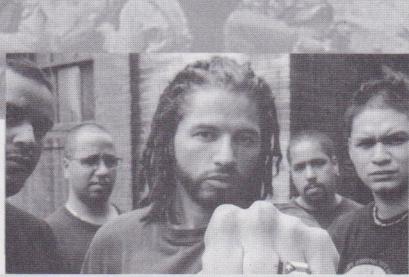
Poetica is a poet, performer, photographer, artist who has been making her presence known in the Philadelphia scene since 1994. Look out for her book of poetry and photographs entitled *Immaculate Creation* by Natalie Natema.



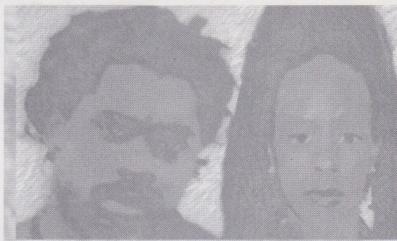
Hailing from the birthplace of hip hop, Division X is out to prove that the Bronx is still capable of putting out dope material. Emcees Mad Dog and North Star with DJ Dust on the wheels create solid lyrics and tight beats. [www.thinkpop.com](http://www.thinkpop.com)



Philly-based Luminous Flux combines their duo female voices to create verbal assaults on mainstream hip hop. Read the interview with them on page 24.

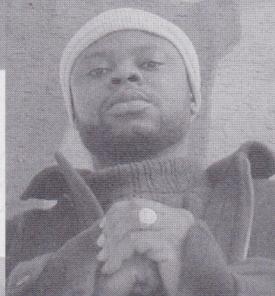


Ricanstruction are Punk Prophets, fusing raw power of political punk and hardcore Hip Hop street knowledge, who practice what they preach and preach what they practice by supporting radical and righteous causes, ranging from the campaign to free political prisoners to the Puerto Rican Liberation struggle and more. [www.ricanstruction.net](http://www.ricanstruction.net).



Black Surreal are self-taught, technically trained artists, responsible for recording, mixing and mastering tracks, capturing, directing and editing videos, and making graphics. They utilize their music as a platform of resistance with "no apologies or explanations." Check out their AWOL interview on page 11. [www.blacksurreal.com](http://www.blacksurreal.com)

Stewy Nuke'em, aka Emerge, has been drawing and rhyming for years, and has become a fixture in the east coast hip hop scene. Politically charged & fueled by the mystic energy of the ancients, Akan relays messages in several languages including French and English Stewy and Akan teamed up on the 15th Street subway. [coa@objector.org](mailto:coa@objector.org). [www.blumag.com](http://www.blumag.com)



3RD WORLDWIDE: containing styles of lyricism unmatched in today's mainstream rap, these three emcees, Eyerate, Vision and Oracle release the mental beatdown quite rapidly. Hailing from parts unknown, this trio cites their main influence to be the struggle for freedom from white supremacy.

Julia Moreno's Peruvian and Ecuadorian roots are a source of strength and pride from which she draws the musical traditions of Andean and Afro-Peruvian sound textures. Her current interest is in Aguafuego, a changing line-up of musicians, who play a mixture of world music with original vocal compositions. [www.aguafuego.com](http://www.aguafuego.com)



Seeds of Wisdom are the revolutionary youth of the MOVE Organization, ages 9 to 22, and they're coming with the profound wisdom of John Africa, MOVE's founder. Their latest work, "Power of Truth Burning down the System" is strong, forceful, full of uncompromising truth. Contact: [seedsofwisdom@hotmail.com](mailto:seedsofwisdom@hotmail.com) or #267-251-9838.

Mas Pyke, from Springfield, Mass, is a blend of raw original hip hop with thought-provoking lyrics. Their independent label "Buckarance Records" released the Gong Showin 2000. You can look for them in the "Get Up Stand Up" 12" series for 7 heads. [www.maspyke.com](http://www.maspyke.com)



Soulstice. It means the highest point. True to her name, this Jersey/New York MC has spent 12 years on the front lines, battling her way towards her ultimate destination. With a combination of rhythm, soul, and style, Soulstice spits lyrics with the ferocity and tenor tones reminiscent of the original queens of Hip Hop.

The Welfare Poets' music is Urban Plena, the street news of the ghettos in the united states. Bringing poetry and rhyme with a mixture of Hip Hop, Funk, Salsa, blues and Jazz, the Welfare Poets make music to uplift oppressed people all over the world. Culture is revolutionary power, and with music and words, they attempt to link with progressive minds toward the betterment of humanity. [www.WelfarePoets.com](http://www.WelfarePoets.com)



Dead Prez is a world-renowned hip hop group, taking the art form back to the vein of KRS-One and Poor Righteous Teachers, rather than "watch yourself, shake your ass!" Their first album "Let's Get Free" addresses a wholistic way of creating revolution, within yourself, the community and the movement.



Caridad de la Luz, aka La Bruja, is a poet/performer born and raised in the Bronx. You can hear her singing on rapper Puerto Rock's upcoming album for Epic Records. Caridad also travels throughout the country doing poetry/hip-hop workshops with at-risk youth, shedding light on the benefits of expression, spoken word and the link between poetry and hip-hop. [www.labrujanyc.com](http://www.labrujanyc.com)



Third Eye Movement is a hip hop activist organization that raises the political consciousness of young people, people of color and all oppressed people through community organizing and direct actions against police brutality and the growing police state. Third Eye Movement uses hip hop as a means not only to entertain but to empower. Vocals on this track by J.T. Ameen. [www.thirdeyemovement.org](http://www.thirdeyemovement.org).



Ryakin is a Philly-based Native American hip hop artist, delivering the refreshing sounds of revolution. Ryakin exhibits the true do-it-yourself attitude by producing and recording his music, all the while maintaining a hard commitment to give voice to injustice.



World famous hip hop group Michael Franti and Spearhead have produced two albums and are getting ready to release a third: "Stay Human." Spearhead has used its musical talent to showcase social issues both through their lyrics and through their participation in fundraisers. See interview on page 16. [www.spearheadvibrations.com](http://www.spearheadvibrations.com)

All AWOL artists can be reached at their [name@objector.org](mailto:name@objector.org), i.e.; [Ryakin@objector.org](mailto:Ryakin@objector.org), [Thirdeyemovement!@objector.org](mailto:Thirdeyemovement!@objector.org)

# This issue of AWOL is dedicated to Tameka Nerise Sims

Sunrise Feb. 7, 1975



**On Dec. 30, 2000**, the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) lost one of our own. Tameka Nerise Sims became another victim of this brutal, murderous system, killed at the age of 25.

AWOL staff would like to dedicate this issue to her memory, her family and her 2-year-old daughter Alize, left behind in this cold, physical world.

Tameka was a strong sister whose beautiful presence and personality will be sorely missed. As we heal, in her memory, we continue the immense work of challenging our military corporate culture.

At this time we ask that you take a brief moment of silence, say a prayer, burn sage, light up some sweetgrass, burn a candle, light some incense and smoke somethin', pour out a little liquor or whatever it is you do to honor those who have moved on to the spirit world.

Think of Tameka or someone close who died or was killed before their lives fully blossomed.

**Rest in Peace, in memory of....**

Sunset Dec. 30, 2000



# AWOL

REVOLUTIONARY ARTISTS WORKSHOP VOLUME 1

